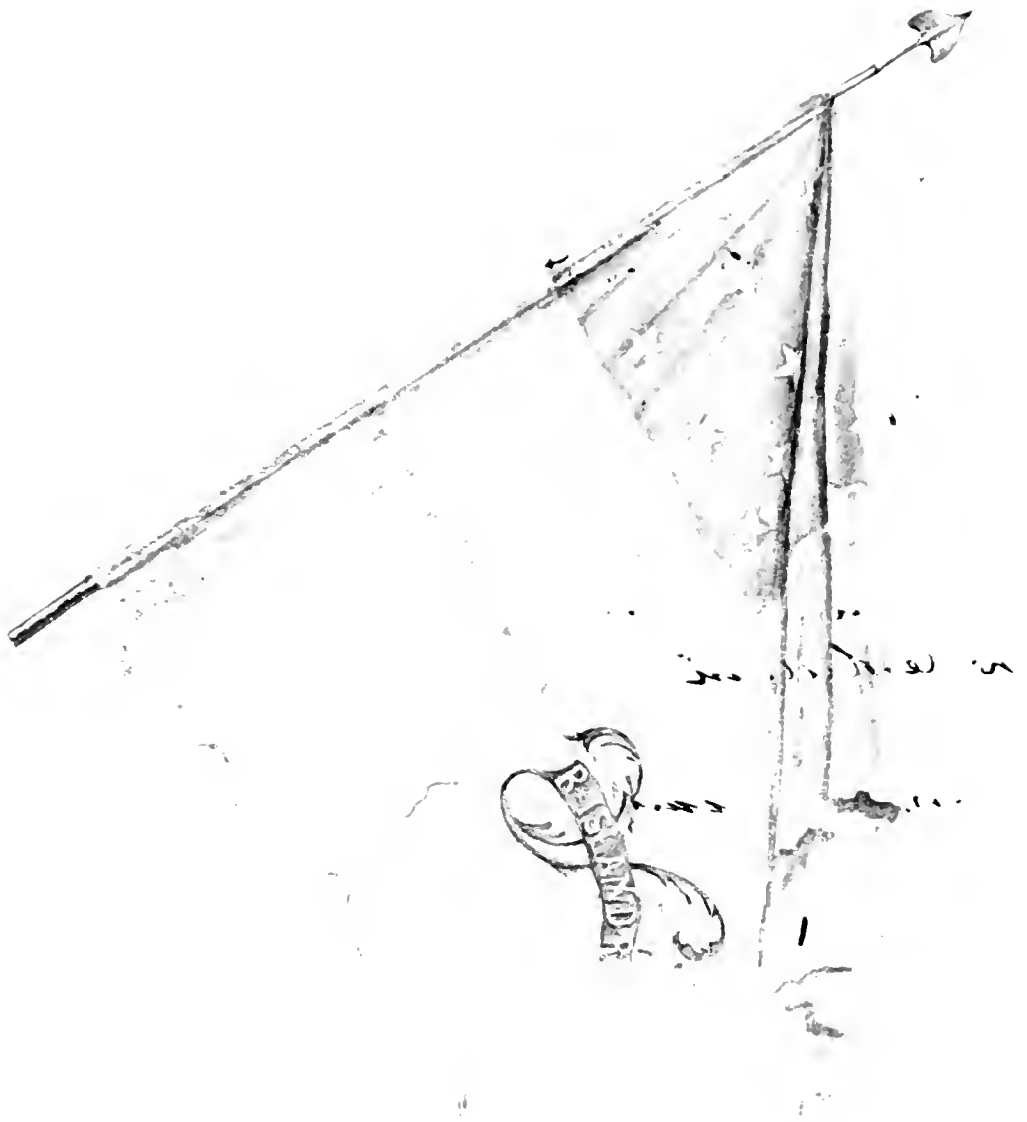


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FIVE COPIES WERE PRINTED, OF WHICH THIS IS
NO. _____

REGIMENTAL COLORS
IN THE
WAR OF THE REVOLUTION



SECOND
RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT

REGIMENTAL COLORS
IN THE
WAR OF THE REVOLUTION
BY
GHERARDI DAVIS



WEBB'S REGIMENT
CONNECTICUT

NEW YORK
PRIVATELY PRINTED
AT THE GILLISS PRESS
1907

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*I dedicate these pages
to my wife*

REGIMENTAL COLORS

IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

THE following pages and illustrations are the result of the study made by me in my leisure hours during the past winter, while preparing a paper on the subject of "Regimental Colors in the War of the Revolution," which I read before the New York Historical Society on February 5, 1907, and again before the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in New York on April 19, 1907. The subject is not one in which very many people are interested, and yet I believe that the romance surrounding an old regimental color, as well as the historic and, possibly, the artistic interest in some of the flags shown on the following plates, will justify the printing of these pages.

Most of the plates are from photographs of the flags; a few are from water-colors made by Mrs. Davis and myself, from which, as well as from the photographs, lantern slides were made to illustrate the paper when read. It will be observed that for flags which were carried in the Revolution for several years, nearly all of our colors are in remarkably fine condition.

Since I first read the paper, I have obtained a good deal of information, which I have here added to my original paper. I

REGIMENTAL COLORS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

have collected all the American, English and German flags, of which I was able to find originals, but there are undoubtedly others in existence in private hands, for it seems impossible that the few referred to in the following pages are all that have been preserved. Of the French flags, none of those that were here exists to my knowledge.

Thanks are due by me to Mr. Kelby, Librarian of the New York Historical Society, Mr. Bates, Librarian of the Connecticut Historical Society, Mr. Jordan, Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Worthington C. Ford, Chief of the Division of Manuscripts of the Library of Congress, and many others, whose names I shall mention later on, for their kind and valuable assistance in the preparation of the following pages.

GHERARDI DAVIS.

NEW YORK, June, 1907.

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DIRECTLY FROM PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FLAGS

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AMERICAN COLORS

AMERICAN COLORS

NATIONAL COLORS

IT is not my intention to enter into any discussion on the origin of the Stars and Stripes, or to argue what was the Grand Union flag of 1775, or whether the Americans at Bunker Hill carried a flag or not, or whether it was red or blue. All this is discussed at length in several excellent books on the American flag, to which I refer those who may wish to read more in detail about this disputed subject. In regard to the National flag, however, while none has been preserved, as far as I can ascertain, the subject is too interesting to be passed over without any comment.

It is stated in most books on the American flag, that after the adoption of the Stars and Stripes on June 14, 1777, this flag was put into immediate use by the Army. It is also said that it was carried first in action at the battle of the Brandywine (or, according to others, at an engagement just before that battle), and Trumbull painted it in his picture of the surrender of Cornwallis. But I have not found any contemporary account or report of such use in action of the flag as a regimental color. Its use on board ship and at Fort Stanwix as a post-flag is, of course, unquestioned. Mr. Worthington C. Ford has supplied me with the following, which I believe is not generally known :

REGIMENTAL COLORS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

The War Board in a letter dated "War Office," May 10th, 1779, writes to General Washington as follows:

* * * "The Board have been frequently applied to on the "Subject of Drums and Colours for the several Regiments. It "is impossible to comply with all the Requisitions for these Arti- "cles, as we have not materials to make either in sufficient Num- "bers. We hope however to have in a short Time a competent "Number of Drums. So soon as they are made we send them "to Camp as we find many Irregularities and Inconveniences arise "from delivering them or any other Articles here.

"As to Colours we have refused them for another Reason. "The Baron Steuben mentioned when he was here that he would "settle with your Excellency some Plan as to the Colours. It "was intended that every Regiment should have two Colours one "the Standard of the United States which should be the same "throughout the Army and the other a Regimental Colour which "should vary according to the facings of the Regiments. But it "is not yet settled what is the Standard of the U. States. If your "Excellency will therefore favor us with your opinion on the "Subject we will report to Congress and request them to estab- "lish a Standard and so soon as this is done we will endeavour to "get Materials and order a Number made sufficient for the Army. "Neither can we tell what should be the Regimental Colours as "the Uniforms were by a late Resolution of Congress to be set- "tled by your Excellency.

* * * * *

"We have the Honour to be

"with the greatest Respect

"Your very obedient Servants

"Richard Peters"

"His Excellency the Commander in Chief By Order"

AMERICAN COLORS

Richard Peters again wrote from the War Office to General Washington, under date of September 3, 1779, as follows:

* * * “The enclosed Drafts of a Standard for the Army
“are sent for your Approbation, Rejection or Alteration. The
“Officers will be by and by pressing for Colours and if Materials
“can be procured they shall be made when you send us your Ideas
“of the Plan of the Standard. The one with the Union and Em-
“blems in the middle is preferred by us as being variant for the
“Marine Flag.” (Washington Correspondence 93, 339.)

To this General Washington replied from his Headquarters at West Point, under date of September 14, 1779:

* * * “I agree with you in opinion, that the standard, with
“the Union and Emblems in the centre, is to be preferred, with
“this addition the Number of the Regiment and the State to which
“it belongs inserted within the curve of the Serpent, in such place,
“as the painter or designer shall judge most proper.” * * *
(Washington Correspondence A. Vol. IV.) No such standard
appears to have been preserved, nor is there any picture of one in
existence, that I can find.

The use of the United States flag was, therefore, apparently not “regulation,” as the term goes, even in 1779. No doubt some regiments carried this flag, and yet, while there are a number of other regimental colors in a good state of preservation, not one National color has been preserved, as far as I can ascertain.

Trumbull and Peale painted the stars and stripes in some of their pictures, and no doubt correctly painted what they had seen in actual use, although both are clearly guilty of anachronisms in some cases. Peale, especially, seems to have been almost painfully accurate in his painting of flags, and I do not believe that he drew imaginary colors. I have made careful inquiries abroad at Cassel, Marburg, Ansbach and Bayreuth, but no colors captured by the Germans appear to be in existence, and yet it is not at all im-

probable that they captured one or more National colors from us. Again, through the courtesy of our Embassy in London, I have been aided in making a thorough search in England, but neither at Chelsea Hospital, nor the Tower nor in any of several other places was I able to find a National color.

This is very strange, but perhaps some one who reads these pages may know of the existence of such a flag. I will add that the Historical Societies of the thirteen original States all tell me that they have never heard of such a color.

STATE AND OTHER REGIMENTAL COLORS

THERE exist a number of regimental colors, either State flags or flags of peculiar design, but even of these very few have been preserved. And again, of those which were captured from us only two seem to exist. Thus the red flag with *Liberty* on it, captured by the Hessians at the battle of Long Island; the yellow, white and light blue flags, taken by Knyphausen at the surrender of Fort Washington; and the embroidered red and blue flags, taken at Charleston by the British, have all disappeared and no accurate description of them exists. There appear, furthermore, to be no existing regimental flags of the thirteen original States except of *New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York* and *Pennsylvania*, while in *Maryland* there is preserved only one Cavalry standard, and in *South Carolina* also only one. In view of the fact that the *Maryland* troops fought with great distinction in the Revolution, it is rather strange that not even a description of their colors exists. The same is true of the *New Jersey* regiments, but it is even more remarkable that very little is known about the regimental colors of the *Massachusetts* troops. I know of no existing *Massachusetts* colors carried in the war, or of any reliable account of them, except that in the 2nd Volume, 5th

AMERICAN COLORS

Series of the American Archives, at page 244, the flag of the *13th (Massachusetts) Regiment* is described as follows: "Ground, Light Buff. Device, Pine-Tree and field of Indian Corn (emblematical of New England fields). Two Officers in the uniform of the Regiment, one of them wounded in the breast, the blood streaming from the wound. Under the pine several children, one of the officers pointing to them, with the motto, 'FOR POSTERITY I BLEED.'" I have been unable to trace the flag of the *Newburyport Company*, referred to by Preble (pp. 204, 264).

As I am particularly interested in American colors which still exist, I shall not go further into this discussion, except to say that I have made the same inquiries abroad on the subject of State regimental flags that I made for our National colors, but, with the exception of two *New Hampshire* colors, I met with the same disappointing result. Undoubtedly many flags have been lost in fires, as was the case with some once preserved in the old Museum at Alexandria, referred to by Lossing (who says that he saw there several flags which had been carried in the Revolution), and quite recently a flag, said to have belonged to General Greene, was destroyed by fire at Springfield, Massachusetts. Others, no doubt, have simply rotted to pieces or been cut up into souvenirs; and some may still exist stowed away and forgotten.

The following account of the now existing American colors is, I hope, not too brief. I have given such general information concerning each flag as seemed necessary. I suppose it would be utterly impossible to ascertain in what actions the flags were carried.

FLAG OF THE BEDFORD MINUTE MEN

Before taking up the flags of the original thirteen States I think it will be proper to refer to a small flag which, it appears

to be quite certain, was carried at the battle of Concord by the *Bedford Minute Men*. It is now preserved in the Bedford Historical Society, and it has been described and pictured in colors in a pamphlet published by Mr. Abram E. Brown of Bedford, Mass. It is about two and one-half feet square, and represents an arm issuing from a cloud, the hand holding a sword, all in silver and gold on a red ground. A scroll in gold bears the inscription: "VINCE AUT MORIRE." I am not at liberty to reproduce the picture. This little flag was made in England between 1660 and 1670, and is a very remarkable relic of the Revolution.

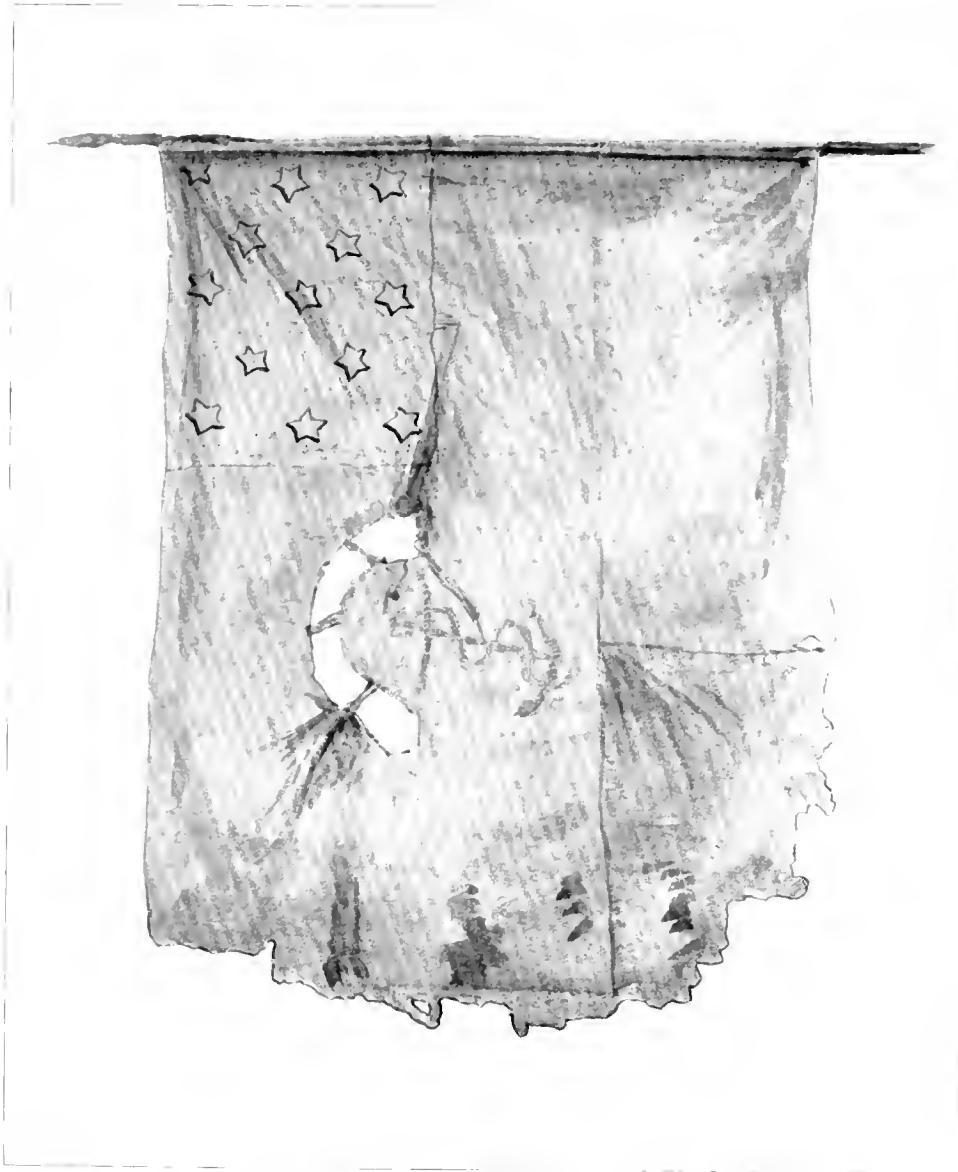
RHODE ISLAND

There are two Rhode Island colors in existence, both at the State House, Providence.

FIRST RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT

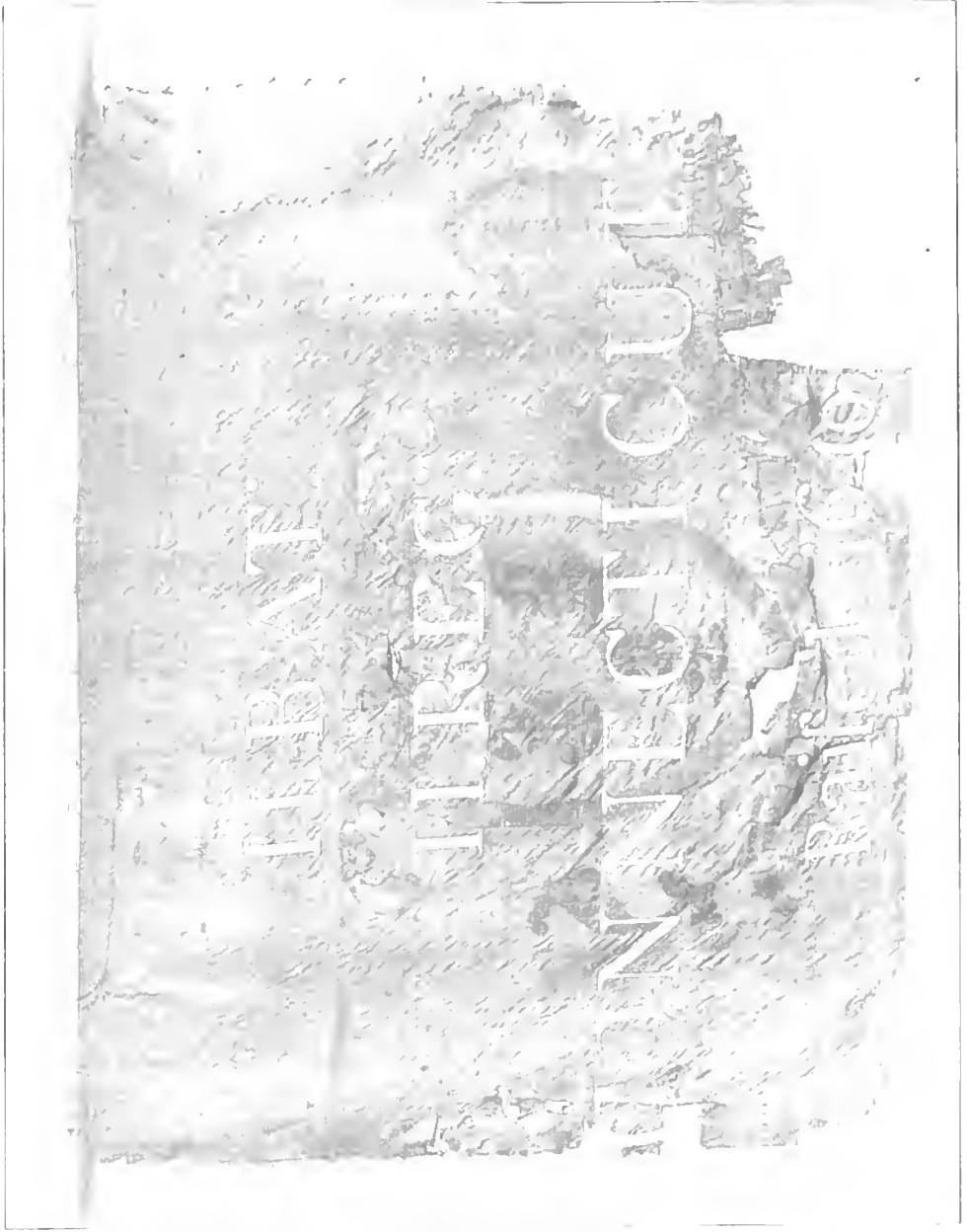
(PLATE 1)

This is a white flag with a blue canton with thirteen gold stars, arranged in rows of two and three. In the centre of the flag is a blue anchor sewed on the silk, above which was formerly the State's motto: HOPE. The flag is large, about 5x6½ feet. The illustrations of this and the next flag are drawn from photographs lent me by Mr. Tulley, of Providence, Rhode Island, State Record Commissioner, to whom I am greatly indebted for these pictures. The regiment, to which this flag belonged, was in many of the battles of the Revolution, Trenton, the Brandywine, etc., and Yorktown.

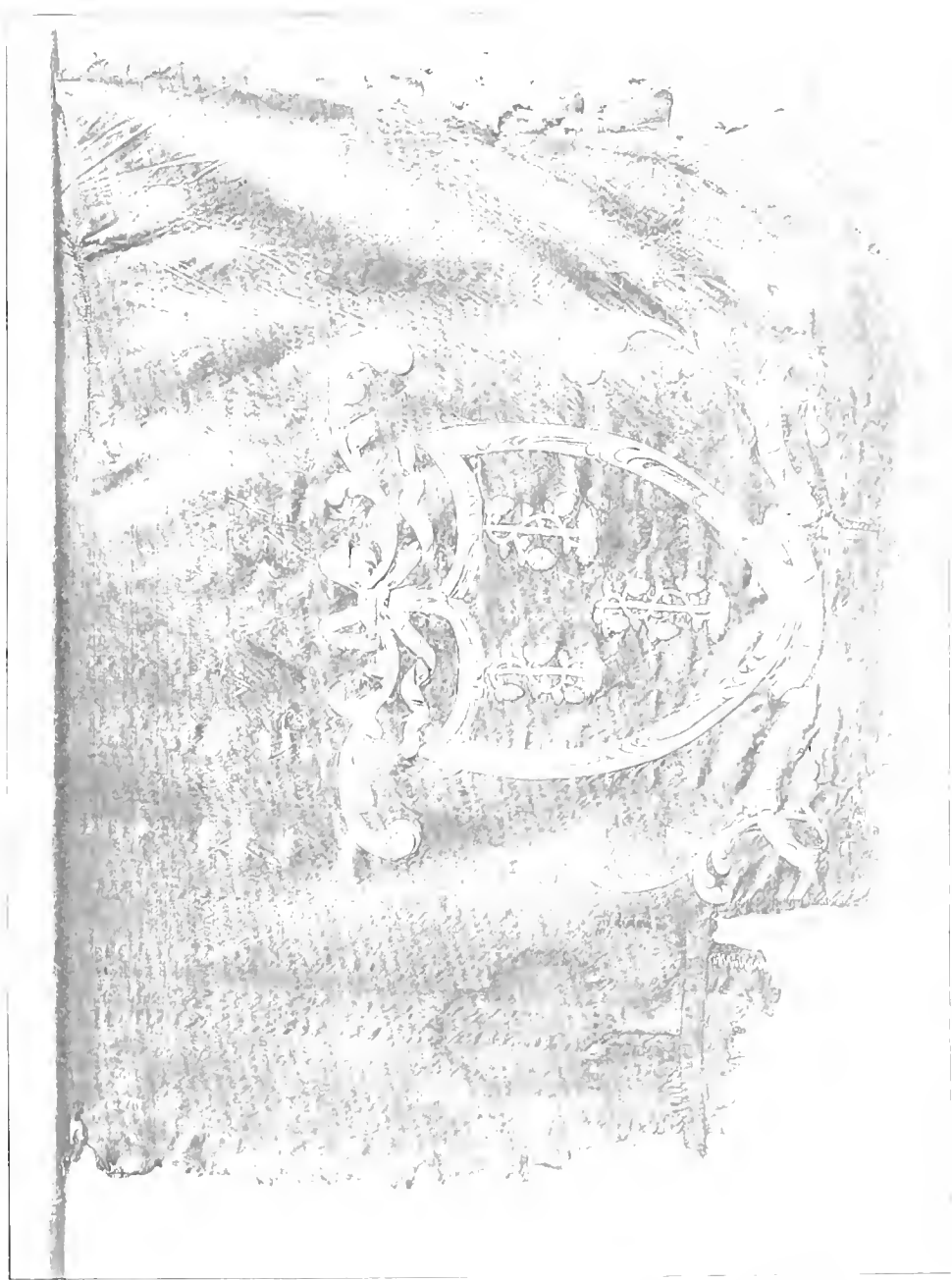


FIRST RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT

PLATE I



SECOND CONNECTICUT REGIMENT
SECOND BATTALION



SECOND CONNECTICUT REGIMENT
SECOND BATTALION

PLATE III



WEBB'S REGIMENT
CONNECTICUT
PLATE IV

AMERICAN COLORS

SECOND RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT

(FRONTISPIECE)

This flag is also of white silk, with thirteen small white stars, arranged, as on the last flag, on a blue canton. It now measures about 4 feet square, and is much damaged at the fly. In the centre of the flag is a neatly designed scroll, bearing the inscription: R. ISLAND REG'T. The colored drawing from which the color-print was made was painted by Mrs. Davis. The *2nd Rhode Island Regiment* was consolidated with the *1st Regiment* in 1780, but it was in many of the battles of the Revolution. In 1784, February 25th, this flag and that of the *1st Rhode Island Regiment* were presented to the State of Rhode Island and have thus been most carefully preserved.

CONNECTICUT

The oldest Connecticut infantry color still existing is that of the

SECOND BATTALION, SECOND CONNECTICUT REGIMENT

(PLATES II AND III)

now in the possession of the Connecticut Historical Society at Hartford. Through the courtesy of the Society, and of its Librarian, Mr. Bates, I was able to have this flag photographed. Of it the Connecticut Historical Society says:

“This flag or standard, now in the hall of the Connecticut Historical Society at Hartford, was some seventy-five years ago in the possession of Colonel John Mix of Farmington, Conn., who was Adjutant of the second regiment of the ‘Connecticut Line’ in the Revolution from June 1, 1778, to January 1, 1781, and is supposed to be of that or earlier date. It may have been carried in the Revolution, although the color designated for the

“second regiment’s flag was blue, while this is dark red. Possibly it was for the use of the second regiment of the colony’s militia before the Revolution. There is no record of its history previous to its being in Col. Mix’s possession. The ‘Raised 1640’ probably indicates the date of the first raising or organization of some company of militia which later became the second regiment.

“The flag is made of dark red silk. It now measures 44 inches long by 34 inches high. The large letters are gold. On the other side, the shield is red (the silk being left in its natural color). The outer border of the shield, the vines, the scroll work, which is of decidedly artistic merit, and the motto ribbon are gold. The inner border of the shield and the bow of ribbon above are bright blue. The shadings and outlines are in black, and the letters of the motto are black. The remaining portion of the staff is a very old piece of wood, shaved and filed round. The flag is not now correctly fastened to the staff.

“Colonel Mix, who died in 1834 and had been Quartermaster-General of the State from 1796 to 1814, deposited this flag in the State Arsenal, which had been built under his supervision in 1812. In 1839 the Quartermaster-General placed the flag in the office of the Secretary of the State; and in 1846 the Secretary placed it in the custody of the Connecticut Historical Society.”

This flag, of course, does not antedate 1711, as prior to that date the Connecticut arms bore thirteen vines, not three. It will occur to any one reading these lines, that in 1775 there was much rejoicing at the Siege of Boston over a red Connecticut flag with the motto *QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET*, which appears on this color in abbreviated form. I do not claim that this is the flag then hoisted, but I suggest that this color may be like that flag.

AMERICAN COLORS

THIRD (WEBB'S REGIMENT)

(PLATE IV AND TITLE PAGE)

There are in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, two flags, the property of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and which were presented to the latter Society, by Mr. Francis Parsons Webb (a descendant of Colonel Samuel B. Webb) through Mr. Oliver Hough, as having belonged to Colonel Samuel B. Webb's regiment. I am greatly indebted to both Societies for their courtesy in allowing me to have photographs made of these flags. One or both of these flags must have belonged to the *Third Connecticut Regiment* of which Colonel Webb, after he was exchanged, became Colonel. It was made up of the *Ninth* (Webb's old regiment) and the *Second Regiment* (see Webb's "Correspondence and Journal," Vol. III, p. 367), and was accepted July 23, 1780, by Connecticut as a regiment. On January 11, 1777, Webb had been appointed by General Washington Colonel of a new battalion (one of sixteen), and as is known, he was taken prisoner in December, 1777, and remained unexchanged for many years. On September 6, 1782, Edward Hand, Adjutant General, wrote to Colonel Webb, from the Camp at Verplanck's Point (Webb, Vol. II, p. 416), as follows:

"Dear Sir:

"By direction of the Commander in Chief, I send you two
"of the Lt. Infantry Standards, one for the use of your own, and
"the other for Col. Jackson's Regt. I am

"Very sincerely yours,

"Edw'd. Hand A. Genl."

A. The larger flag, shown on Plate IV, was probably a regimental color, not the Light Infantry standard referred to. I regret to say that I have found no account of this flag, and I have

also been unable to find any explanation of the curious design and equally curious motto: IN MERIDIEM PROGRED, ET(C?) (the last letter is not clear). Only half the motto appears on either side of the flag.

The flag is of yellow silk, the scroll blue, the Indian figure bears a golden shield, and the banner flying from under the Quaker hat is red and white, striped. At the Indian's feet is a very peculiar animal standing over a King's head, cut off at the neck, pierced through the temples by an arrow; a royal English crown is falling from the head. When new, the flag must have been six feet square or over. It is painted the same on both sides, and is badly damaged at the outer and lower edges.

B. The smaller flag, shown in colors on the title page, is apparently a guidon of some kind. The wreath is green, tied with a pink ribbon. The sword is painted to represent steel. The "I" is black. The flag (about three feet square) is well preserved.

The larger flag is referred to by Preble, who gives no account of it, however. I have not found anywhere a reference to the smaller flag.

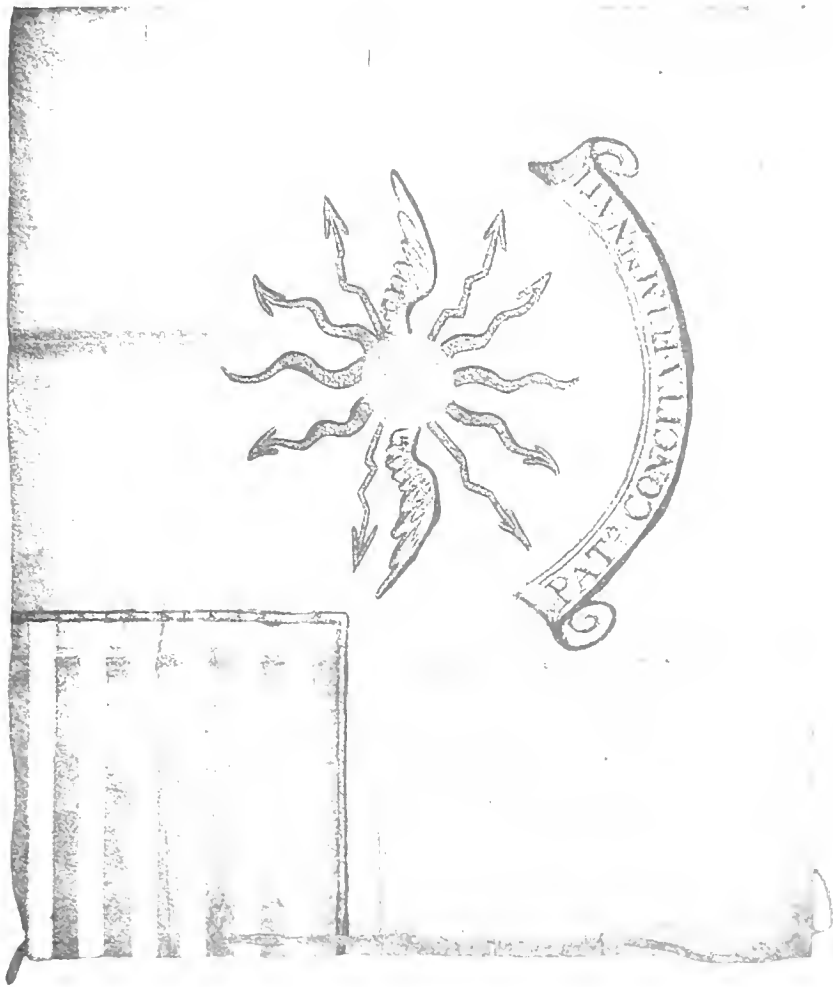
There are still in existence two standards of

TALLMADGE'S DRAGOONS

(PLATES V AND VI)

of which exquisite prints are to be found in the "Memoir of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge," edited by Henry Phelps Johnson, Esq., and published by the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York in 1904. This Society has very kindly allowed me, as a personal favor, to have these prints photographed for reproduction here. One of the standards is pink, the other blue.

(1) *The Pink Standard* is about 2½ feet square, and is of thin, fine silk. It is painted in oil, and is generally in good condition. It is somewhat cracked where the paint has been folded. In the



BY PERMISSION

TALLMADGE'S DRAGONS

(PINK STANDARD)

CONNECTICUT

PLATE V



TALLMADGE'S DRAGOONS
(BLUE STANDARD)
CONNECTICUT
PLATE VI

BY H. P. M. D. C.

AMERICAN COLORS

centre is a winged disk (blue with silver wings) with ten golden thunderbolts running from it, like the sun's rays. Under this is a silver scroll with the motto: PAT^A. CONCITA. FULM^{NT}. NATI. in black capitals. In the upper corner next the staff two silver lines, together with the upper and inner edge (hoist) of the flag, form a canton, in which are six stripes of edged, white (French) ribbon, sewed on the silk, making thus thirteen pink and white stripes. This little standard is so clean and fresh, as to suggest that it has not been much exposed to the weather. It is in the possession of Mr. F. E. Harper of New York City, who very kindly let me examine the standard.

(2) *The Blue Standard*, which is in private hands in Troy, New York, is very much like the other. The blue disk has golden wings and thunderbolts. The motto below (the same as on the other standard) is on a golden scroll, and there is, above, a golden scroll with the inscription: 2^D REG^T L^T DRAGOONS. There is a canton, edged with a gold line, containing seven gold stripes painted on the blue silk.

NEW YORK

There is in New York State but one regimental color, that of the

THIRD NEW YORK REGIMENT

(PLATE VII)

which regiment was commanded by Colonel Peter Gansevoort. It was afterward consolidated with the *2d New York*, but it seems to be unquestioned that this flag was at Yorktown, with the consolidated regiment. The flag, which was made in 1778 or 1779, is about six feet square, and is of dark blue silk. The fringe is also blue. The State Arms are painted on both sides of the flag.

REGIMENTAL COLORS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

The coloring of the arms is as in the present State Arms, except that the wreath is red and white, not blue and gold. The supporters, who are in costumes of the second half of the eighteenth century, have dresses of cloth of gold, red mantles and sandals, and blue sashes across their bodies. The scroll work is yellow-brown, shaded brown. This flag, until recently in the possession of Mrs. Abraham Lansing, Albany, has been carefully framed and is now deposited, for safe keeping, in the Albany Institute and Historical and Art Society. To this Society and to Mrs. Lansing, who is a descendant of Colonel Gansevoort, I am indebted for the privilege of having the photograph made, from which the plate is reproduced. It is by far the handsomest regimental color of Revolutionary days.

PENNSYLVANIA

There are in existence two Pennsylvania regimental colors, a picture of a third, and one very beautiful Cavalry standard.

THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY BATTALION

(PLATE VIII)

The flag of this Battalion, which was raised by John Proctor in 1775, is now in the possession of Miss Jane M. Craig of New Alexandria, Pennsylvania. The Battalion did not take part in the war, as an organization, and it is not known whether the flag was ever under fire. The flag measures 6 feet 4 inches by 5 feet 10 inches, is of red silk, and has in the upper corner next the staff the English jack; in fact, it is an old English red ensign. In the centre of the flag is a coiled rattle-snake, its head directed toward the jack. Above the snake are the letters I. B. W. C. P., and above that the monogram, J. P. These letters are said to



THIRD NEW YORK REGIMENT

PLATE VII

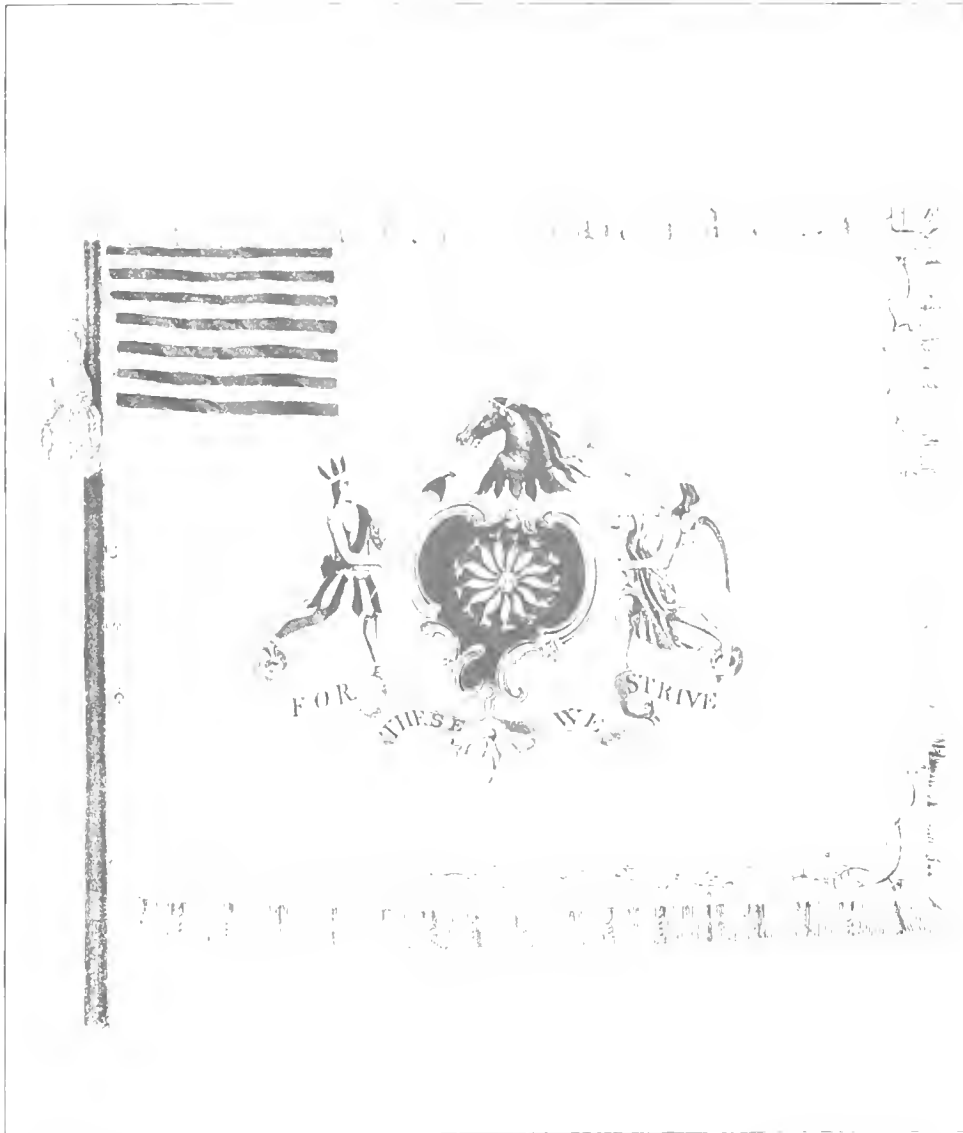


WESTMORELAND COUNTY BATTALION
PENNSYLVANIA
PLATE VIII



FIRST PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT

PLATE IV



BY PERMISSION

PHILADELPHIA LIGHT HORSE

PLATE X

AMERICAN COLORS

mean *John Proctor's 1st Battalion Westmoreland County Provincials* (Pennsylvania Archives, 2d Series, Vol. XIV). Under the snake is the famous motto: DON'T TREAD ON ME on a ribbon, from which spring on either side of the snake gracefully designed scrolls, all in yellow. This is the only existing Rattle-Snake flag, as far as I have been able to ascertain. Miss Craig very kindly had the flag photographed for me. In doing this she was assisted by Mr. Taylor, a direct descendant of Samuel Craig, the original color-bearer. The plate is from this photograph. The usual prints of this flag, it will be observed, are quite inaccurate.

HANOVER ASSOCIATORS

This was a red flag with a hunter in buckskin and the motto "LIBERTY OR DEATH." As far as I have been able to ascertain, this flag no longer exists, but it is represented in colors in Vol. XIII (Second Series), Pennsylvania Archives. The authority for this print, I do not know.

FIRST PENNSYLVANIA RIFLE REGIMENT

(PLATE IX)

This is a dark green flag with a square of red in the centre, and on the red (in white) a hunter with a lance attacking a tiger (lion?) which is in a net. Below the figures is the motto "DOM-ARI NOLO," and above, the letters "P. M. 1st Rt." This color is in the State Capitol, Harrisburg, and is described as early as March 8, 1776, by Lieutenant Colonel Hand (see Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. X. p. 12). There is a colored print of the flag as a frontispiece to that volume. The plate is from a photograph of the original, made for me by the State Librarian, Mr. Montgomery. The regiment was in numerous engagements, from Boston to Yorktown.

REGIMENTAL COLORS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

PHILADELPHIA LIGHT HORSE

(PLATE X)

This standard was presented to the organization by Captain Markoe in 1775, and was carried at Trenton, Princeton, the Brandywine and Germantown. It is about 3 feet by 3½ feet in size, of dull yellow color, and has a canton with thirteen blue and silver stripes, recalling the Tallmadge standards. The shield contains on a blue ground a gold knot with thirteen golden scrolls. The supporting figures are delicately colored. The spear head and tassels are silver. There are several colored prints of this standard, the best being that in the history of this organization. The plate, which gives the details of the standard better than any description can do, is from this latter print, for which I am indebted to Captain Groome of the present *First Troop, Philadelphia City Cavalry*. Preble gives a detailed description of this standard at page 253 and a fair print, and there is a colored print of the standard in Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Vol. XIII.

MARYLAND

THE PULASKI STANDARD

PLATES XI AND XII

This, the only existing Maryland color, is a small embroidered standard, the plates of the two sides of which are from photographs, made for me as an especial favor by the Maryland Historical Society. The colors have faded very much, but the little standard, around which so much romance is clustered, is well preserved for so old a color, especially one that was carried in action. Pulaski was killed at Savannah in 1779, and this standard was then saved by one of his officers. This little standard is a trifle over eighteen inches square, and is of double silk, originally red, now faded to brownish red. The embroidery is in yellow



PULASKI STANDARD

MARYLAND

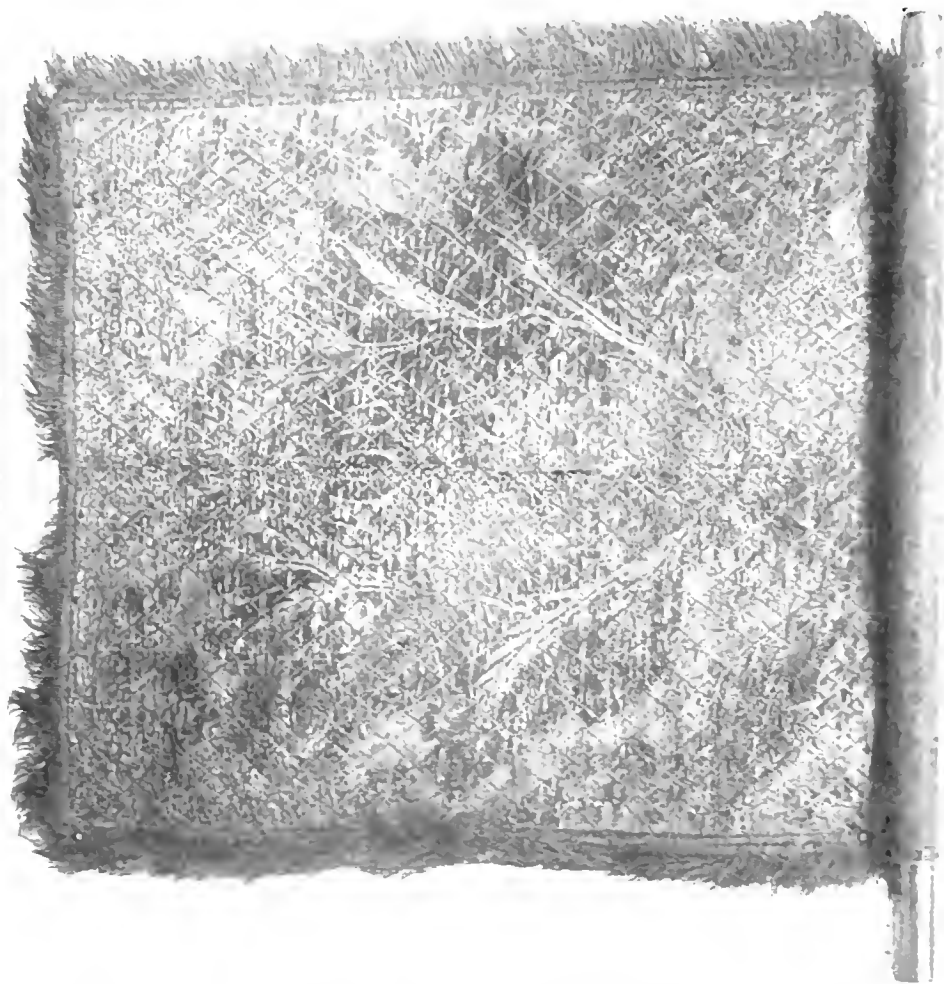
PLATE XI



PULASKI STANDARD

MARYLAND

PLATE XII



COLONEL WASHINGTON'S CAVALRY

FUTA STANDARD

SOUTH CAROLINA

PLATE XIII

AMERICAN COLORS

silk. The fringe is bullion. The standard, on which Longfellow wrote his well-known ode, is given in colors in the Pennsylvania Archives (Second Series), Vol. XI, while a detailed description of it will be found at page 153 of the same volume.

SOUTH CAROLINA

THE EUTAW STANDARD

(PLATE XIII)

as it is commonly called, belonged to Colonel William Washington's Cavalry troop. It is a small square of red damask, and is now in the possession of the *Washington Light Infantry Corps* of Charleston, South Carolina. The romance connected with its origin is well known. This standard is shown in various publications, among others in Preble's book, so often referred to; but my plate is made from a photograph of the original standard, for which I am greatly indebted to Captain Lanneau of the *Washington Light Infantry*, who had this little color especially photographed for me.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

In addition to the flags to which I have referred, there exist, so far as I have been able to ascertain, but two American colors captured during the War of the Revolution. They belonged to the

SECOND NEW HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT

(PLATES XIII-A AND XIII-B)

and were captured at Fort Anne two months before the battle of Saratoga, by the *Ninth Foot (British)*. The flags are now in the possession of Col. George W. Rogers, of Wykeham, Burgess Hill, Sussex, to whom I am greatly indebted for the photographs from which the plates have been reproduced.

Colonel Rogers informs me that these flags (one of which is of light grey blue silk, the other being buff) were brought home by Lt. Colonel Hill, who commanded the *Ninth Foot*, together with the colors of his own regiment (see page 35). Lt. Colonel Hill's daughter was the first wife of Colonel Rogers' grandfather, and the flags have been passed on from one generation to another until they came into Colonel Rogers' hands. Pictures of the flags have never before been made, I believe.

A. *The blue flag* (Plate XIII-A). This flag, which has a gold fringe, measures 5 feet along the staff and 5 feet 6 inches on the fly. In the centre of the flag is a small red shield with golden scrolls on either side and over it. On the shield are the letters N. H. interlaced, under which is 2D, and under that again REG^T. On the scrolls is the motto: "THE GLORY NOT THE PREY." In the upper corner next the staff are two small, superimposed crosses, the upright cross being red, bordered gold, the diagonal cross gold bordered red.

B. *The buff flag* (Plate XIII-B). In the centre of this flag is a golden disk with thirteen rays and thirteen thin lines radiating from it, each of which latter touches one of thirteen interlacing golden rings. The disk bears the motto: WE ARE ONE, and each ring the name of one of the thirteen original States. In the upper corner next the staff are eight triangles, alternately red and pale blue, so arranged as to form two crosses, one upright, the other diagonal. This flag is of the same size as the blue flag.

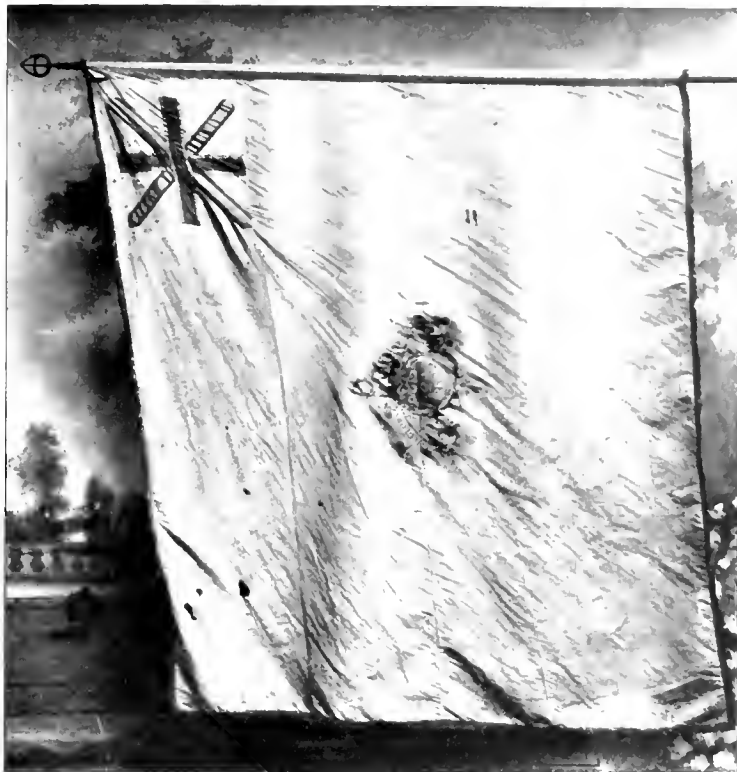


PLATE XIII A



PLATE XIII B

SECOND NEW HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT

NOTES

The flags painted by Peale in his portraits of Washington shown on Plates XVII and XXII, are plain white flags with blue cantons and thirteen white stars. The stars are, strange to say, six-pointed. No ornamentation or emblem of any kind can be distinguished on these flags, but they suggest the standards referred to on pages 4 and 5, in the correspondence between Washington and the War Board. It should be noticed that the War Board expressly refers to the design of a standard for the Army, with the Union and Emblems, as being a *variant for the Marine flag*. This would indicate that, while the Stars and Stripes were used at sea, they were not used by the Army, and this may account for the fact that no regimental Stars and Stripes of those days now exist.

For orders relating to colors in general for the Army, see: *Am. Arch. 4th Series*, Vol. VI, p. 633, 637, May 31, 1776; *Orderly Book*, Feb. 20, 1776 (see Ford's *Writings of Washington*, Vol. III, p. 431, note), an order which allows the colonels, with others, to "fix upon any such [colors] as are proper "and can be procured. * * * The number of the regiment is to be "marked on the colors, and such motto as the colonels may choose. * * * " Of the colors shown on my plates, but five have anything which might refer to a regimental or battalion number.

In Steuben's *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*, will be found at Chapter IV a regulation relating to colors, namely: "A regiment is to consist of two battalions, if of over 160 files, "and one color shall be posted in the centre of each battalion. If the regiment is of less than 160 files, it shall consist of one battalion and both "colors shall be in the centre." In the chapter on *Instructions*, it is provided in regard to Ensigns, that, "As there are two colours to a regiment, "the ensigns must carry them in turn." The diagrams on Steuben's Plate 1 show how the colors are to be posted.

There is in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society a flag which Nell, in his *Colored Patriots of the Revolution*, says (pp. 24, 25, but without giving any authority for the statement) was given to the colored organization known as *The Bucks of America* at the close of the Revolution by Governor Hancock. I have had a plate (Plate XIV) of this flag made as it is quite curious and has on it a Pine Tree and the union

REGIMENTAL COLORS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

with thirteen stars. The flag is now a shade of buff, the union a faded blue; the stars were once gilded. The buck is painted in brown, the tree and ground blue-green shaded with brown; the scrolls are dark robin's-egg blue shaded with dark green, and the letters were gilded. The flag is a little over five feet by about three feet six inches in size.

The two Rhode Island colors above described are referred to, among other places, in: *Rhode Island Colonial Records*, Vol. X, pp. 14, 15; *Col. Isaac Angell's Diary*; *Report by Col. Asa Bird Gardiner* to the Adjutant General of Rhode Island, January 4, 1897, which contains interesting information on the subject of the two regiments. I have already spoken of Peale's pictures of Washington which show a large white flag with a blue canton and stars, but no stripes. The blue unions on the Rhode Island flags and the Bucks of America flag, also suggest the design proposed by the War Board, referred to above.

In May, 1776, the Connecticut Assembly resolved that the flags for the six Connecticut regiments should be of various colors; that of the *First Regiment* to be yellow. The smaller Webb flag with the "I" on it, may, therefore, at one time have belonged to the *First Connecticut*. In connection with the use of cantons with thirteen stripes, the following regulation, for regimental colors in the Connecticut Line, quoted in *Record of Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service during the War of the Revolution*, p. 139 (under date of September 10, 1780), is of interest:

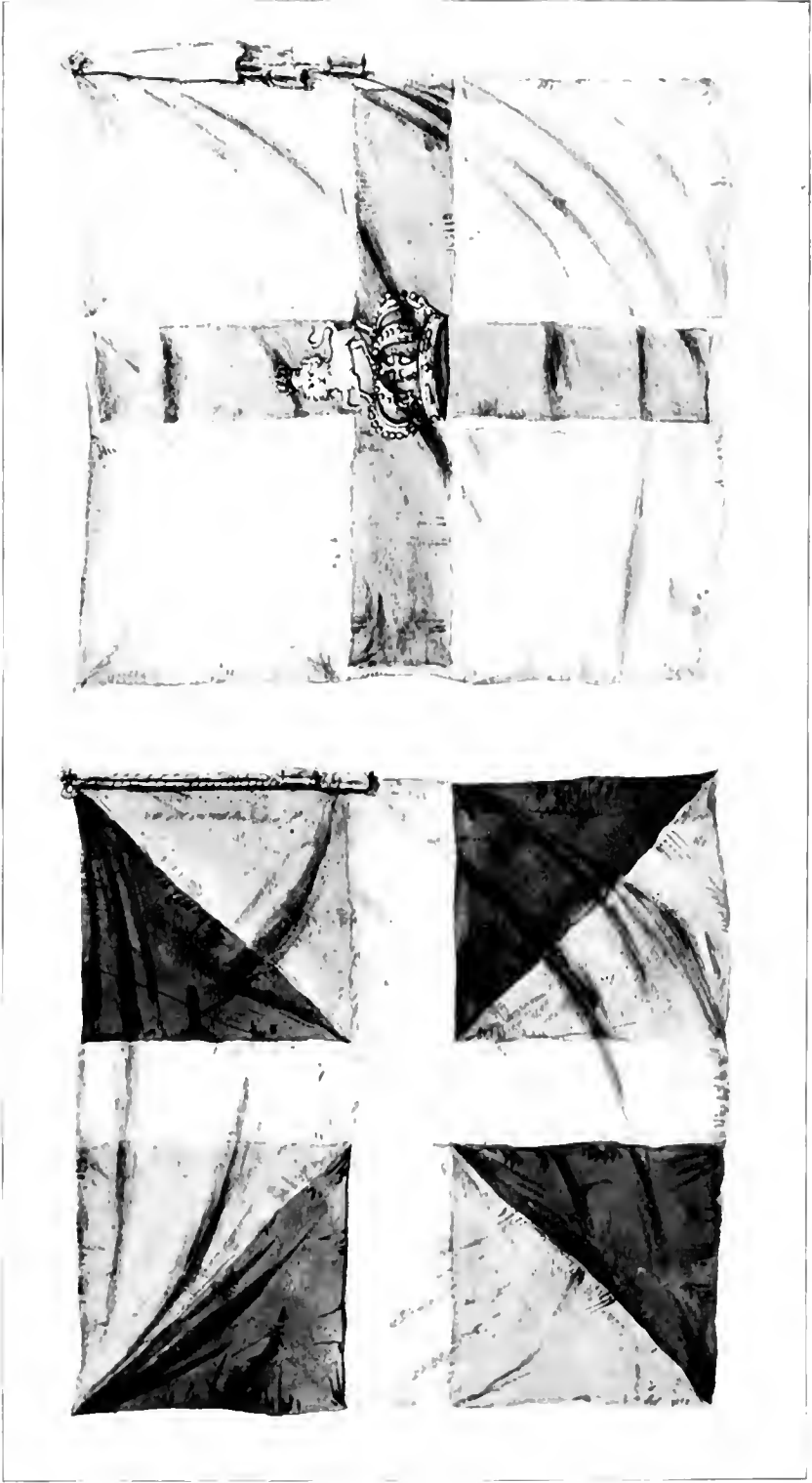
"The ground of each to be different—each to bear the number of the Regt. in large characters:—the devise on one side, the Connt. Arms—on the other, the devise and motto of the 30 Dollar Bills. If the ground of two colours should be so alike as not to be distinguishable 3 or 400 yards, a small field of 13 stripes in the Lower Quarter of one of them may serve as a distinction."

Preble's unusually interesting and valuable book, *The American Flag*, and the books on the same subject by Gen. Schuyler Hamilton and Peleg Harrison, should be examined by those who wish to go deeper into the question of United States colors. Lossing's *Field Book of the Revolution* also contains a good many references to colors that were carried or captured in the Revolution.



BUCKS OF AMERICA
PLATE VII

FRENCH COLORS



WALSH REGIMENT

SOISSONNAIS REGIMENT

FRANCE
PLATE XV

FRENCH COLORS

FRANCE sent to the United States during the Revolution a number of regiments and detachments of regiments, of which the greater part were very actively engaged at Savannah and Yorktown. Besides what were known as French regiments, the French army then had among others within its ranks, German and Irish regiments, and of these latter all of one German and parts of two Irish regiments served here.

The flags of the French regiments which served in America were all according to one general pattern. A regulation reducing the flags from one for each Company to two for each battalion, so that each regiment had at least four flags, was promulgated just before our Revolution; but whether or not it had been complied with in all cases, is not certain. Whether the detachments brought over any of their regimental colors, it is probably impossible to determine. Of the regimental flags one was all white (the colonel's), the others (called in French "drapeaux d'ordonnance"), showed a white cross with four colored squares or cantons. No two regiments had colored flags exactly of the same kind, and there appears to have been absolutely no rule for the color of the silk in the four cantons. If there was any ornamentation on the colored flags such as coats of arms, fleur-de-lys, or mottoes, they appeared on the white flags in color, gold and silver, as the case might be. The white crosses or other patterns on the colored flags

were reproduced on the white flags in white stitching. The German and Irish regiments had flags of different designs, as will be indicated when the colors of these regiments are referred to specifically.

Of the regiments which served here only three had fleur-de-lys on them, and two of these were artillery regiments. Each French flag had a white scarf just under the spear-head, and this was the true badge of royal service. The flags had short cords and tassels of white silk, generally interwoven with threads of the color of the colored cantons. The spear-heads were rather small and were pierced with a fleur-de-lys. Of these I give a print (Plate XXIII) made from a full size drawing from nature, sent me by M. Mouillard, to whose work on French colors I refer later on. The flags were painted and measured about four feet square (130 cm., to be exact). Many flags of this period of the eighteenth century still exist in France and elsewhere in Europe.

In connection with this subject I wrote to M. Edouard Detaille for certain information, and I received from M. O. Hollander, a well-known authority on French colors, a colored drawing of the *Royal Deux-Ponts* flag, of which I had unsuccessfully sought elsewhere for a correct drawing. To both M. Detaille and M. Hollander I express my sincere thanks for their courtesy. I know of no other source from which this information could have been so pleasantly obtained.

The following list of French flags includes all the regiments and parts of regiments which served in the United States. It did not seem necessary to reproduce drawings of more than a very few of the flags. In describing the flags I shall always begin with the upper left hand corner next the staff and continue around the flag to the right. The descriptions are of necessity very brief, and as

FRENCH COLORS

I am here interested in the flags, not the regiments, I do not go into any historical details.

GATINOIS REGIMENT

Known after 1781 as *Royal Auvergne*, in honor of its distinguished conduct at Yorktown. This regiment was formed in 1776 out of two battalions of *Auvergne*, one of the most famous of the old French regiments.

Flag. White cross. Each canton divided into two triangles by a line connecting the outer edges of the cross and colored as follows: (1) outer triangle purple, inner triangle black; (2) outer triangle black, inner triangle purple; (3) purple, black; (4) black, purple. (*Auvergne* had two purple and two black cantons.)

SAINTONGE REGIMENT

This regiment distinguished itself greatly at Yorktown.

Flag. White cross. Each canton divided by diagonals into four triangles, colored blue, yellow, green and red. The sequence of these colors does not seem to be determined, and the flag is, therefore, differently colored in different books.

TOURAINÉ REGIMENT

Flag. White cross. Cantons colored as follows: Aurora, blue, red, green.

BOURBONNAIS REGIMENT

Flag. White cross. Cantons colored as follows: purple, blue, purple, blue.

SOISSONNAIS REGIMENT

(PLATE XV)

Flag. White cross. Cantons divided into two triangles by diagonals of the flag, and colored as follows: (1) upper triangle

black, lower red ; (2) upper triangle red, lower black ; (3) red, black ; (4) black, red. The plate of this flag is drawn from General Susanne's book.

AUXONNE REGIMENT (*Artillery*)

Flag. White cross, semé of fleur-de-lys in gold. Cantons: Gorge de pigeon (i. e. iridescent green and reddish purple), yellow, gorge de pigeon, yellow.

ROYAL DEUX-PONTS REGIMENT

(PLATE XVI)

A German regiment named after the Duke of Deux-Ponts (Zweibrücken).

Flag. White St. Andrew's cross, each arm bearing two golden fleur-de-lys. A crown in the centre of the cross. The upper and lower triangles striped with six white and five red vertical wavy stripes. The right and left-hand triangles striped with six white and five blue horizontal wavy stripes.

The arms of the Duke of Deux-Ponts are placed on this flag but in a very unusual manner, namely: they are separated into four arms each with a mantling. The triangle next the staff and the opposite triangle are charged with the following arms: per pale the Palatinate and Bavaria. The upper triangle bears: per pale Veldenz and Hohnstein; the lower triangle bears per pale Rappolstein and Hohenack. The mantlings are blue, the dexter side charged with the arms of Hohnstein and Hohenack, a not very common but very artistic method of drawing the mantlings. The plate is an accurate copy of Mr. Hollander's drawing; the latter being on tracing paper could not be used for the purpose of making the plate.



DEUX PONTS REGIMENT

FRANCE
PLATE XVI

FRENCH COLORS

The foregoing regiments were at Yorktown; the following were at Savannah or elsewhere:

AGENOIS REGIMENT

Flag. White cross. First and third cantons divided into two triangles by lines joining the outer edges of the cross. The outer triangles thus formed are green, the inner yellow; the second and fourth cantons are purple.

CHAMPAGNE REGIMENT

This is one of the oldest French regiments. It was organized in 1569, and was counted as one of the six which bore the proud title of "*Vieux*."

Flag. White cross, all four cantons light green.

ARMAGNAC REGIMENT

Flag. White cross. All four cantons *feuille-morte* (a shade of brown). This regiment was formed in 1776 from a part of a very old regiment, *Navarre*, whose flags were *feuille-morte*, the cross charged with the arms of Navarre.

AUXEROIS REGIMENT

Flag. White cross. Cantons divided into triangles by lines drawn from the outer edges of the cross and colored: (1) outer triangle blue, inner green; (2) outer green, inner blue; (3) blue, green; (4) green, blue. This regiment was formed in 1776 out of a part of the *Marine* regiment, whose colors had two blue and two green cantons, symbolical of water and earth.

FOIX REGIMENT

Flag. White cross. Cantons divided into triangles by diagonals of the flag, and colored (1) upper triangle brown, lower

green; (2) upper triangle green, lower brown; (3) green, brown; (4) brown, green.

HAINAULT REGIMENT

Flag. White cross. Cantons brown, blue, purple, green.

METZ REGIMENT (*Artillery*)

Flag. White cross, semé of golden fleur-de-lys. Cantons: 1 and 3 yellow, 2 and 4 gorge de pigeon (iridescent green and reddish purple), the reverse of *Auxonne*.

DILLON REGIMENT (*Irish*)

Flag. On a white cross a broad red cross, which does not touch the edges of the flag, and bearing the motto, in black letters: IN HOC SIGNO VINCES. (The arrangement of the lettering is uncertain.) In the centre is a golden harp. Cantons: 1 and 3 red, 2 and 4 black, each charged with a large crown, the cross of which is directed towards a corner of the flag.

WALSH REGIMENT (*Irish*)

(PLATE XV)

Flag. White, with a red cross which does not touch the edges of the flag, and around which an edging of white is indicated by stitching. The cross is charged in the centre with the royal crest of Great Britain: On a royal crown a crowned lion statant, guardant. (The colors of the English army to-day have this crest on their staves instead of a spear-head.) The plate is from my drawing, made from the print in M. Mouillard's work.

The *Dillon* and *Walsh* Regiments were originally Irish regiments which came to France when James II left the throne.

FRENCH COLORS
ROUERGUE REGIMENT

Flag. White cross, dark green cantons, each charged with a red diamond. *Rouergue* reached the United States too late to serve in the war.

It is not known what, if any, standards LAUZUN'S CAVALRY had during the Revolution.

NOTE

Those who may be interested in this matter I refer to the following works, in which the colors of the French Royal regiments are described with great detail: General Susane, *Ancienne Infanterie Française*, with a volume of plates in color of uniforms and flags; Mouillard, *Les Régiments sous Louis XV*, with plates of uniforms and flags in color; de Bouillé, *Les Drapeaux Français*, with many illustrations in color; Desjardins, *Les Drapeaux Français*, containing a reproduction in colors of an old plate of the flags and standards, published in 1771.

I do not know what French flag Peale has painted in the right hand upper corner of the picture shown on Plate XVII.

BRITISH COLORS



GENERAL WASHINGTON. PLATE
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM, NEW YORK
PLATE XVII

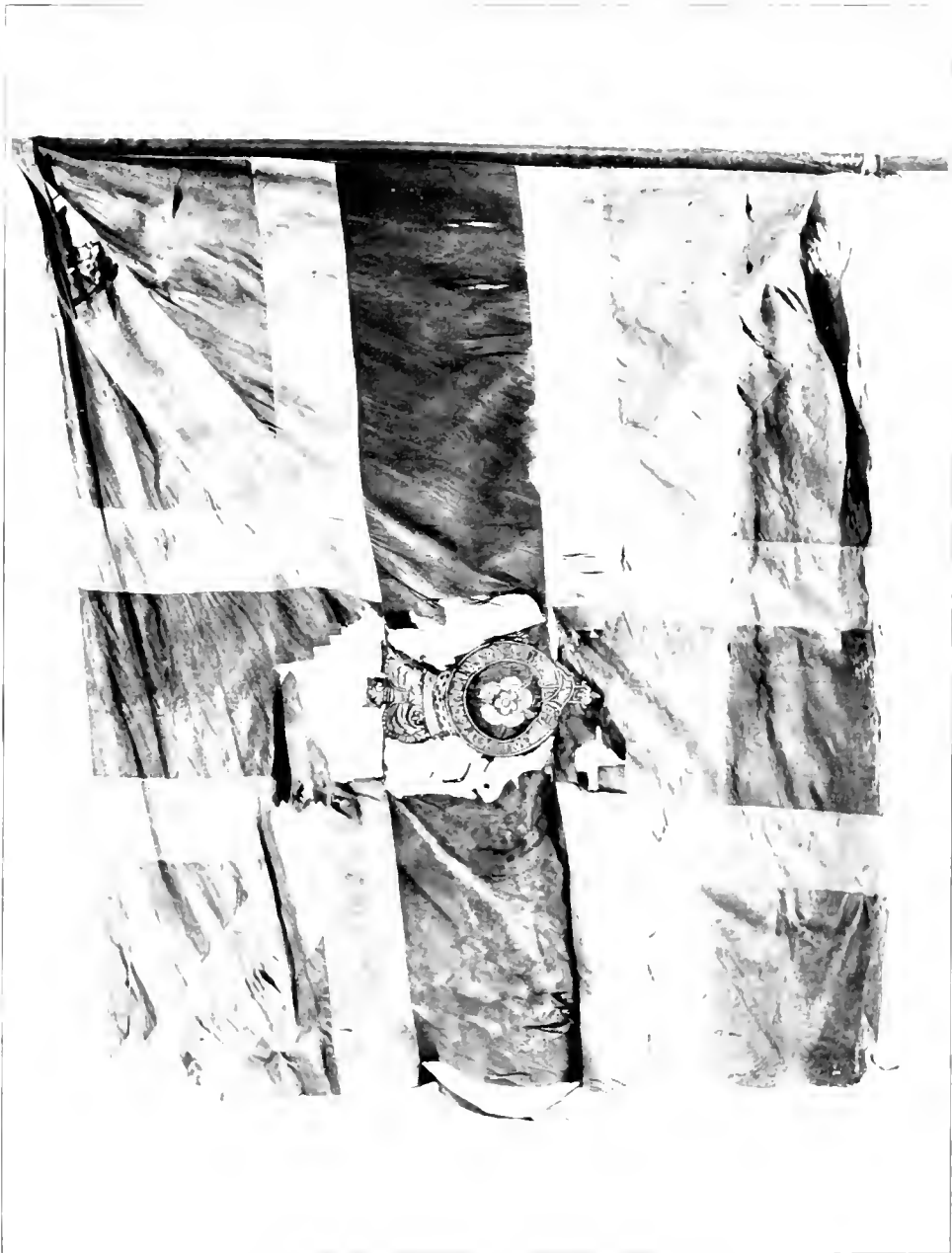
BRITISH COLORS

EACH British regiment, except the Guards, had during the War of the Revolution two colors—a *King's color*, corresponding to our National color, and a *Regimental color*, of which we still have the counterpart. Except in the Guard Regiments, where the rule was reversed, the King's color was the well known jack, the regimental color a flag with a field of color, and with a small jack in the upper corner next the staff. The Guard Regiments had a color (the Jack) for each Company, each with a different badge and a King's color for each battalion. As these badges varied with the seniority of the companies, it is impossible now to determine what colors were in America, especially as the Guard companies were taken from three different regiments. I shall not refer to these regiments again. The flags were 6 feet by 6 feet 6 inches in size, and were embroidered in color and gold. Each flag had a pair of tassels of red and gold interwoven, and a spear head of which I give a print (Plate XXIII).

During the period of the War of the Revolution, where a regiment had a badge (like the Rose and Garter), that badge was placed in the centre of the flags, and the regimental number, in Roman numerals, in the upper corner next the staff or in the centre of the small jack. Where a regiment had no badge, the number was in the centre of the flags, and in the case of the regimental colors, if the flags were of recent origin, it was surrounded with

a handsome wreath of roses and thistles, in accordance with the regulations of 1747, 1751 and 1768. The regimental flags varied in color according to the facings of the uniforms. Thus they had blue (Royal Regiments), yellow, green, and buff fields for facings of these colors. Where the facings were white or red the field was white, with a broad St. George's cross; where they were black, the field was black with a broad St. George's cross.

Regiments with flags of all these colors served here, and we captured flags of many hues; but of all those we captured, only two are known to exist, both King's colors, and both at West Point. What became of the others, no one knows, as far as I have been able to ascertain. Thus we captured two sets of colors of the *7th Fusiliers*, one at Fort Chamblé in 1775, and the other at Cowpens in 1779. The Regimental colors have disappeared. One of the King's colors is at West Point. In Peale's smaller picture of Washington at the Metropolitan Museum, of which I have had a plate (Plate XVII) prepared from a photograph, which the Museum allowed me to have made, he has painted a King's color of the *76th Regiment*, lying on the ground, and as he is said to have been very accurate in his details, undoubtedly he is accurate in this respect. This regiment surrendered at Yorktown, and we took its colors as well as those of the *43d* and *80th*. On the same picture is a green British color, but it is impossible to determine the number of the regiment as the centre of the color is not visible. We captured five colors at Fort Stanwix, but there is no record of what flags were taken there. In fact, there appears to be no official record here of any of the flags taken. There is none in the War Department. In Milne's "Standards and Colors of the Army" (an excellent work on British Army colors), several flags are referred to as having been captured. Thus the author says (p. 113) that the *17th Foot* lost its colors at Stony Point (the regimental color was white with a red cross), and consequently it



SEVENTH FUSILIERS. KING'S COLOR

WEST POINT

PLATE XVIII

had none when it surrendered at Yorktown. As is well known the colors of the *Ninth Foot* were secreted by the officers at Saratoga and not surrendered to us. So, too, the colors of the *23rd (Royal Welsh) Fusiliers* were secreted at Yorktown and not surrendered. The colors of the *33rd Foot* were not surrendered at Yorktown, having been left in New York. (See Milne, p. 112.) These flags still exist in whole or in part in England.

Congress presented to Washington certain colors captured at Yorktown, and of these the King's color of the *7th Fusiliers*, now at West Point, is said to be one. As, however, that regiment was not at Yorktown, it is rather difficult to explain this. The suggestion that another body of troops had that regiment's colors seems untenable, when the great jealousy with which an English regiment treasures its regimental honors and badges is considered.

Congress, by resolution of October 29, 1781, presented a British color to General Greene, but it is not known to what regiment it belonged, nor is it known what became of it.

Just how many British colors we took no one knows, and it is very probable that some were destroyed in Washington, when the British burned that city. Others, again, may simply have rotted to pieces, although this is not very likely, as the flags were embroidered. Others may be still in private hands or stowed away and forgotten. Thus Mr. Milne wrote me that he had found the embroidered centre of a color of a famous regiment in a junk-shop in London. How it got there, no one knows. Mr. Milne has given me a great deal of information on the subject under consideration for which I am greatly indebted to him. His book is unusually interesting, many of the very fine illustrations being from photographs. The English regimental histories generally make no mention of the loss of flags.

In the following pages I have referred to but one color beside those at West Point, as it seemed unnecessary to describe any others.

REGIMENTAL COLORS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

SEVENTH (ROYAL) FUSILIERS

KING'S COLOR

(PLATE XVIII)

This flag (which is now at West Point) was, I believe, taken in 1775 at Fort Chamblé. It is in fine condition. The embroidery is quite perfect, but its weight has torn the flag at the centre. The blues and reds have faded somewhat. In the upper corner next the staff is the Roman numeral VII in gold. The Garter (which with the Rose is still one of the regiment's badges) is blue; the rose (red and white, with green leaves) is on a red ground. The crown is silk and bullion. The spear-head is missing; so, too, the regulation tassels.

In the American Archives, 4th Series, Vol. III, at page 1132, is printed a letter dated "Camp before St. Johns, October 20th, 1775," from Richard Montgomery, announcing, among other things, the capture of the colors of this regiment at Chamblé; and a letter from John Adams to Elbridge Gerry (at page 1354 of the same volume) refers to these flags thus: "We have the colors of the Seventh Regiment as the first fruits of victory."

The regimental colors of this regiment, also captured by us, were (if according to regulation) blue with the same badge in the centre, and in three corners the Badge of Hanover (a white galloping horse). These have disappeared, as well as the Second King's color, unless the next flag be that color, something wholly unascertainable.

UNKNOWN REGIMENT

KING'S COLOR

(PLATE XIX)

This flag, also in the Chapel at West Point, has evidently been mutilated, by having a number or badge cut from the cen-



KING'S COLOR OF UNKNOWN REGIMENT

WEST POINT

PLATE XIX



NINTH FOOT
PLATE XX

tre. Its place of capture is unknown. It will be observed that the proportions of this flag are not the same as those of the *7th Fusilier's* flag, and that the St. Andrew's Cross does not run correctly to the corners. Mr. Milne surmises that this flag was made in America and not by a Government Department, for some regiment (perhaps the *7th*, which received new colors after Chamblé), and he thus accounts for the error in shape and design. This and the preceding color were sent to West Point from the War Department in 1858. The plates are from photographs made for me at West Point through the courtesy of Brigadier General Mills and Major J. M. Carson, Jr.

NINTH FOOT

(PLATE XX)

This plate was drawn by me from data in Mr. Milne's book, in which (at page 106, plate XIII), he gives a picture of the centre, made from a photograph. The flag is yellow: This regiment surrendered at Saratoga, but the colors, as I have stated, were not delivered to us. I give this plate to show a good example of the wreath of roses and thistles.

There were upwards of fifty English regiments here during the Revolution and a correct description of the flags would probably be impossible, and in any event not especially interesting. To give an idea of the various colors, I will add that the *Fifth Foot* (one of the regiments at Bunker Hill) had a green regimental color; the *Sixty-Fourth Foot* (which so distinguished itself at Camden) a black color with the red cross, of course; the *Twenty-seventh (Inniskilling) Regiment*, a buff color.

NOTE

On January 28, 1845, a report was made to the House of Representatives (28th Congress, 2d Sess., No. 80) referring to a resolution of June 23, 1778, and quoting it as follows: "RESOLVED, That the Board of War "be directed to collect the standards and colors taken by the Army of "the United States since the commencement of the war." It then quotes a report to Congress (January, 1814) by the Secretary of War thus: "Of "the standards and colors taken by the army of the United States during "the War of the Revolution, six remain in this office; others, it is understood, were deposited in Philadelphia while Congress sat in that City. "Whether they were, or were not, brought to this place with the public "offices cannot be ascertained." The report of 1845 continues as follows: "The small number of revolutionary trophies in possession of the Executive Departments should cause Congress to take immediate measures for "the preservation of those which remain. The capture of the Earl of "Cornwallis, alone, furnished twenty-four standards and colors. Perhaps "as many more were taken with General Burgoyne. Where are they now? "Either mouldered into dust, or rotting in some obscure place, at this "time *unknown!* * * *

"The committee, which considered this subject, January, 1814, remark concerning the place most proper for the exhibition: 'This should "be public, and easy of access, at the same time that it should be perfectly secure from villainous attempts. These flags should be placed "so as to be seen by every citizen who may wish to observe them. "It will be of advantage that they should be noticed by every foreigner "who may visit the United States.'

It will be noticed that reference is made to six flags. The United States now own but five. There are two Hessian flags in Philadelphia, to which I shall refer later on. In 1900 I saw in the War Department at Washington an English flag, like a King's color of a Regiment, in very



UNKNOWN BRITISH FLAG

WASHINGTON, D. C.

PLATE XXI

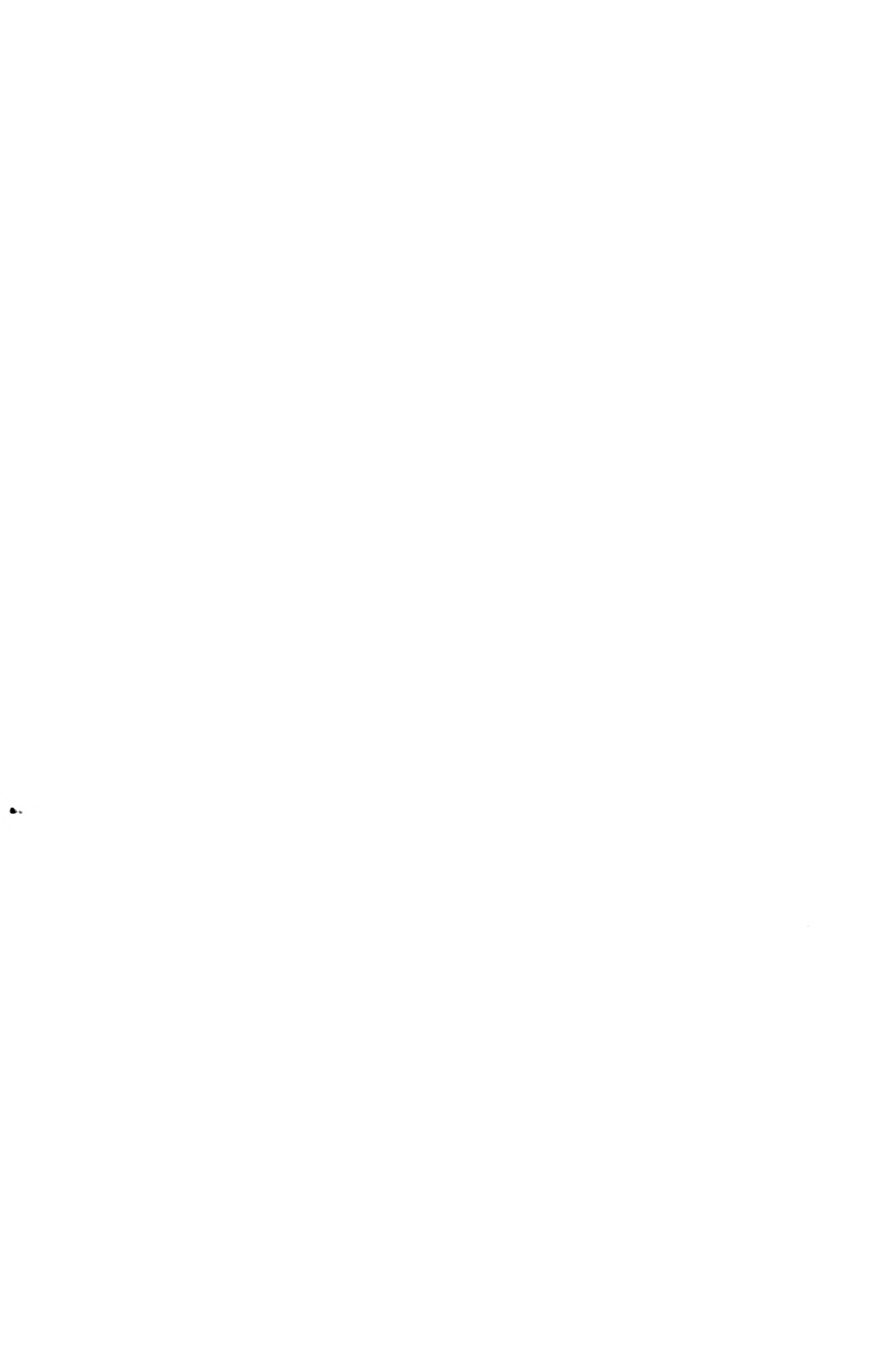
BRITISH COLORS

bad condition, but with a regulation spear-head. The flag was very long, much too long to have been carried by a man on foot. I have had a photograph, which I took of this flag, reproduced as a curiosity (Plate XXI). This may have been a King's color, although I doubt it; it bore no mark to indicate to what regiment it may have belonged. On the spear-head is cut a Roman XII, but the *Twelfth Regiment* did not serve here; it was at Gibraltar.

Mr. Milne's book, *Standards and Colors of the Army*, London, 1893, and Major Carson's elaborate paper in the *Bulletin of the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy* for 1902, should be consulted by those desiring more detailed information on the British colors. Lossing also gives an account of the colors which he saw at the Alexandria Museum.

There is a good deal of uncertainty as to just what flags were presented to Washington after Yorktown.

GERMAN COLORS





GENERAL WASHINGTON (PEALE)

PHILADELPHIA

PLATE XXII

GERMAN COLORS

IT is probable that all of the German regiments which served in the United States had one color for each company. I am informed by the Historical Society at Bayreuth, that the two Ansbach-Bayreuth regiments undoubtedly had one color for each company. This would explain the great number of German colors captured at Yorktown—eighteen, ten belonging to the two Ansbach-Bayreuth regiments, *Voit* and *v. Seybothen* (of five companies each), thus leaving four to each of the two Hessian regiments, *Erb-Prinz* and *von Bose*. The Yagers and Artillery had no colors. There is no small disagreement over the number of colors taken at Trenton. William Ellery in a letter, I quote later on, written December 31, 1776, gives four as the number, as does the return quoted on page 386 of Stryker's "Battles of Trenton and Princeton." We there captured three regiments, *v. Knyphausen*, *Rall*, and *v. Lossberg*, and the Hessian General Heister admits a loss of fifteen flags in his report of January 5, 1777, to the Prince of Hesse.

There were no national colors in Germany during our Revolution, as there were none in France. Hence the regimental colors were very often fanciful, although each bore something to indicate to which State the Regiment belonged. Thus the Hessian colors had on them a red and white striped lion (the arms of

Hesse), the Brunswickers a white horse in a red field (the arms of Brunswick), the Ansbach-Bayreuthers a red eagle (Brandenburg) and the letters M. Z. B. ("Markgraf zu Brandenburg," the reigning Markgraf's family being allied with the Hohenzollern-Brandenburg house).

Of the many German colors captured, not less than twenty-two, I know of but five existing, and a small piece of a sixth. Three Ansbach-Bayreuth colors are at West Point, two Hessian, and the remnant of a third, are in the Historical Society in Philadelphia. As is well known, the Brunswick colors (and probably the Hesse Hanau colors) were not surrendered at Saratoga. The former were carried off in a mattress by Madame Riedesel, and returned to Brunswick. The Waldeck colors were probably captured by the Spaniards at Pensacola. In any event, I have been unable to find out anything about them, or about the Anhalt-Zerbst colors. To Herr Boehlau, Secretary of the Museum Friedericianum at Cassel, Herr Zwanziger, Director of the Historical Society of Ober-Franken at Bayreuth, Herr Julius Meyer, Secretary of the Historical Society of Mittel-Franken at Ansbach, Herr Walter, Director of the Vaterländisches Museum at Brunswick, and to the Royal Staats-Archiv at Marburg, I am greatly indebted for information about the German colors, which I shall now take up in order.

HESSIAN COLORS

(PLATES XXIII, XXIV, XXV)

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania very kindly allowed me to have photographs made of the two Hessian colors, and of the small fragment of a third, which that Society owns. The plates show the flags, in very tattered condition, but still perfect enough for any one to be able to reconstruct them, especially if



SPEAR HEADS

(ON SAME SCALE)

BRITISH

ANSBACH-BAYREUTH

FRENCH



FRAGMENT OF HESSIAN COLOR
UNKNOWN REGIMENT

PHILADELPHIA

PLATE XXIII

one examines Peale's large portrait of Washington at the Metropolitan Museum or at Independence Hall. On this portrait appear three Hessian colors (well shown on my Plate XXII of the Philadelphia portrait), two of which are black, and one of which is green. The remnant of a Hessian flag, which is among the Clymer papers in Philadelphia, and which is shown in the illustration (Plate XXIII), shows a part of the monogram "F. L." (Friederich Landgraf) and of the wreath on white silk, and a very little piece of a black field. The same monogram appears clearly on one of the two flags I have had reproduced (Plate XXIV). The field of both these flags is a faded green, the corner blazes brownish white, the centre blue with traces of a red and white striped lion. The oddly shaped "blazes," which appear in the corners of the flags, are still not uncommon on flags in the Prussian Army. The flags were painted in gold and colors, the gold being sharply outlined in black: the wreaths, monograms and crowns are gold. Where the two green flags were captured or to what regiment they belonged is not positively known.

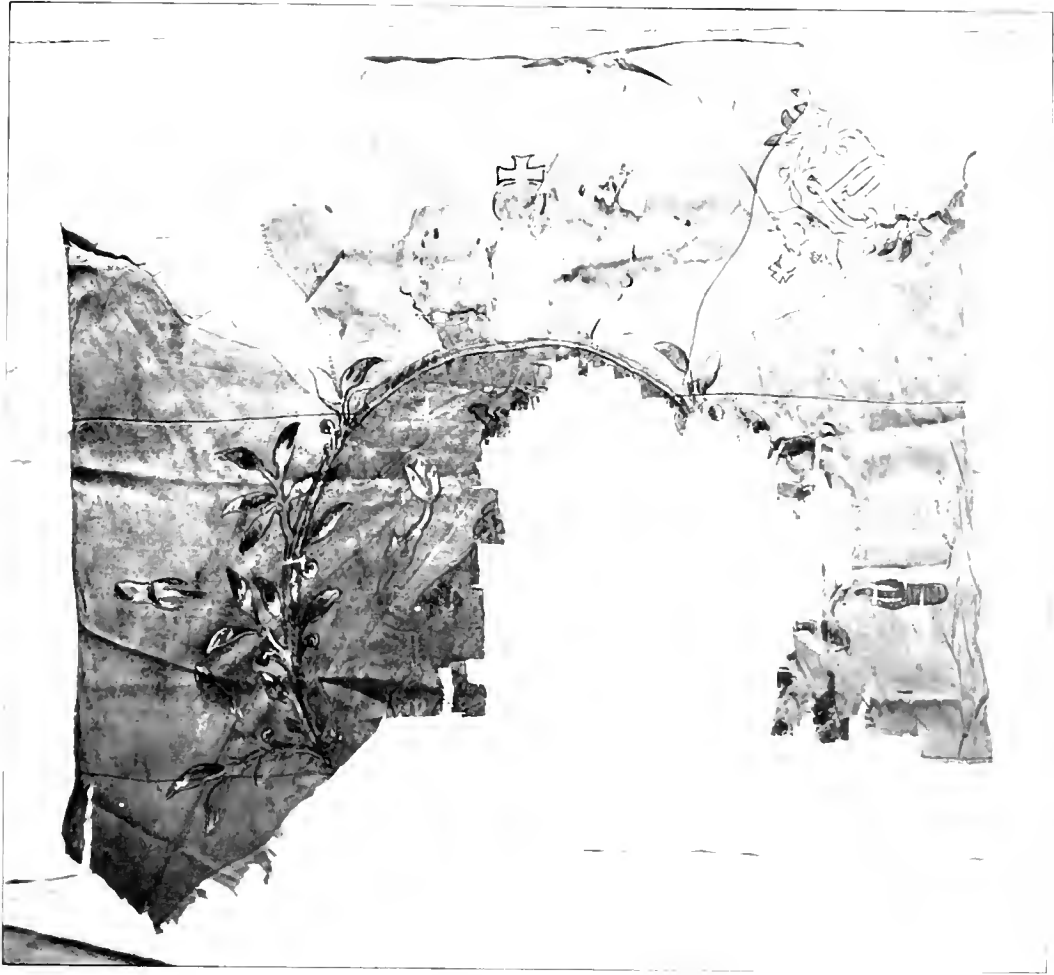
On December 31, 1776, William Ellery, writing from Baltimore to the Governor of Rhode Island, described a Hessian color with great accuracy as follows: "Among other things that fell "into our hands by the victory at Trenton, were four standards, "one of which is now in the room where Congress is held, and "directly before me. It is a Hessian silken standard. The bat- "talions which were surprised and subdued were the regiments of "*Landspatch, Kniphausen and Rahl*. I would describe it, if I were "acquainted with heraldry, and if it were important enough to "engage your attention. In the centre of a green field of about "four or five feet, is a decorated gilted circle, which encloses a lion "rampant, with a dagger in his right paw, and this motto in the "upper part of it: 'Nescit Pericula.' The crest is a crown, with "a globe and cross upon it. In the corners are gilted decorated

“circles, with crowns and globes, and crosses, on their tops; and
 “in the middle ‘F. L.’ in cyphers. A broad blaze extends from
 “the corners to the piece in the centre, and three small blazes
 “are placed in the field; one in the middle of the side next
 “staff; one in the opposite side; and one in the midst of the
 “lower side or bottom.” * * * (R. I. Col. Rec., Vol. VIII, p.
 170). Any further description of the Hessian colors would seem
 unnecessary. I will only add, that on the better preserved flag the
 sword and the lion’s paw can be seen distinctly (Plate XXV). It
 would seem as though the lion as well as the corners had been de-
 liberately torn out of each of these flags.

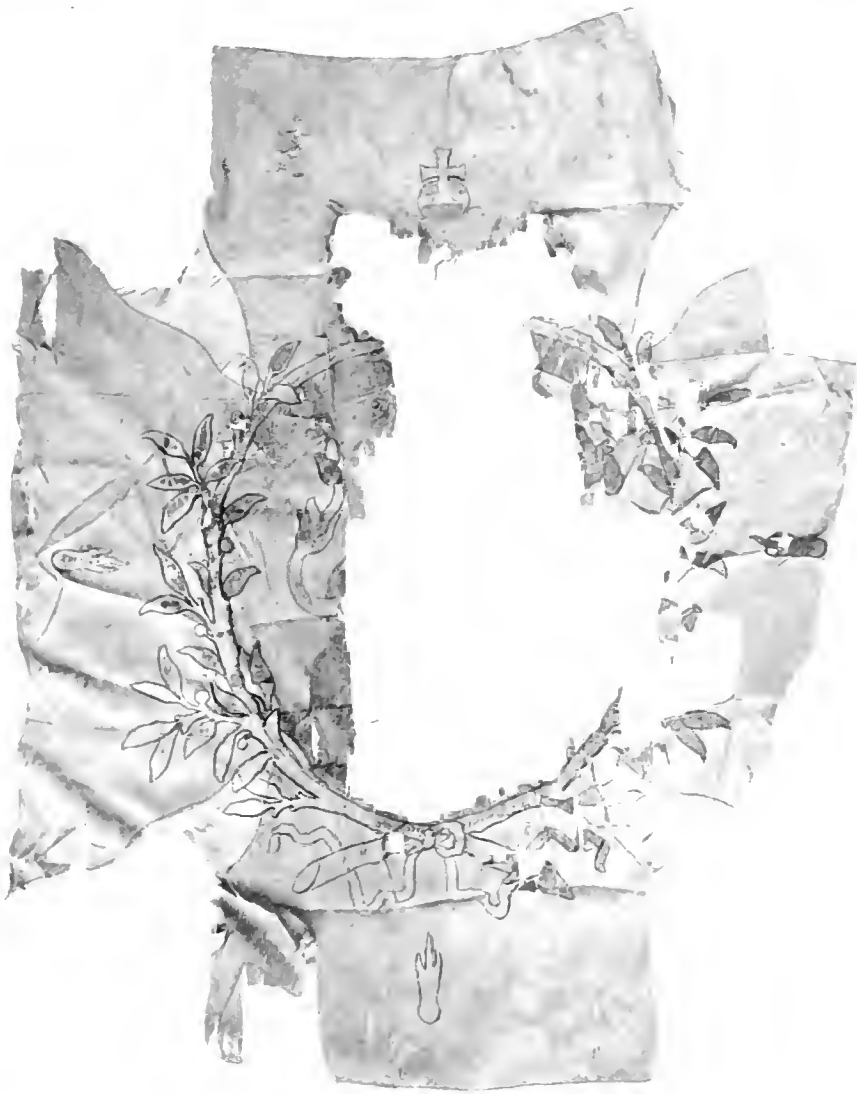
ANSBACH-BAYREUTH COLORS

(PLATES XXVI TO XXXI)

The three Ansbach-Bayreuth colors in the Chapel at West Point are alike in design, except that two have the date 1775 and the third 1770. They were captured at Yorktown on the surrender of the two Ansbach-Bayreuth regiments, *v. Seybothen* and *Voit*. They are of double, heavy white damask, the pattern being a small spray of flowers and leaves; the flag of older date is on silk of a different pattern from the others. Lossing speaks of one of these colors as having been in the Alexandria Museum, and says that it was probably made in England. There is no authority whatever for such a surmise. The nailing of the flags to the staves is a common German custom, but it will be observed that the three flags are not nailed in the same manner. The embroidery is of colored silk much faded. On one side of each flag is an eagle, now dull reddish brown, but originally red (the Brandenburg eagle), and a scroll with the motto PRO PRINCIPE ET PATRIA (gold on silver), now badly tarnished. On the other side of the flags are palm and laurel branches of green,



HESSEAN COLOR
UNKNOWN REGIMENT
PHILADELPHIA
PLATE XXIV



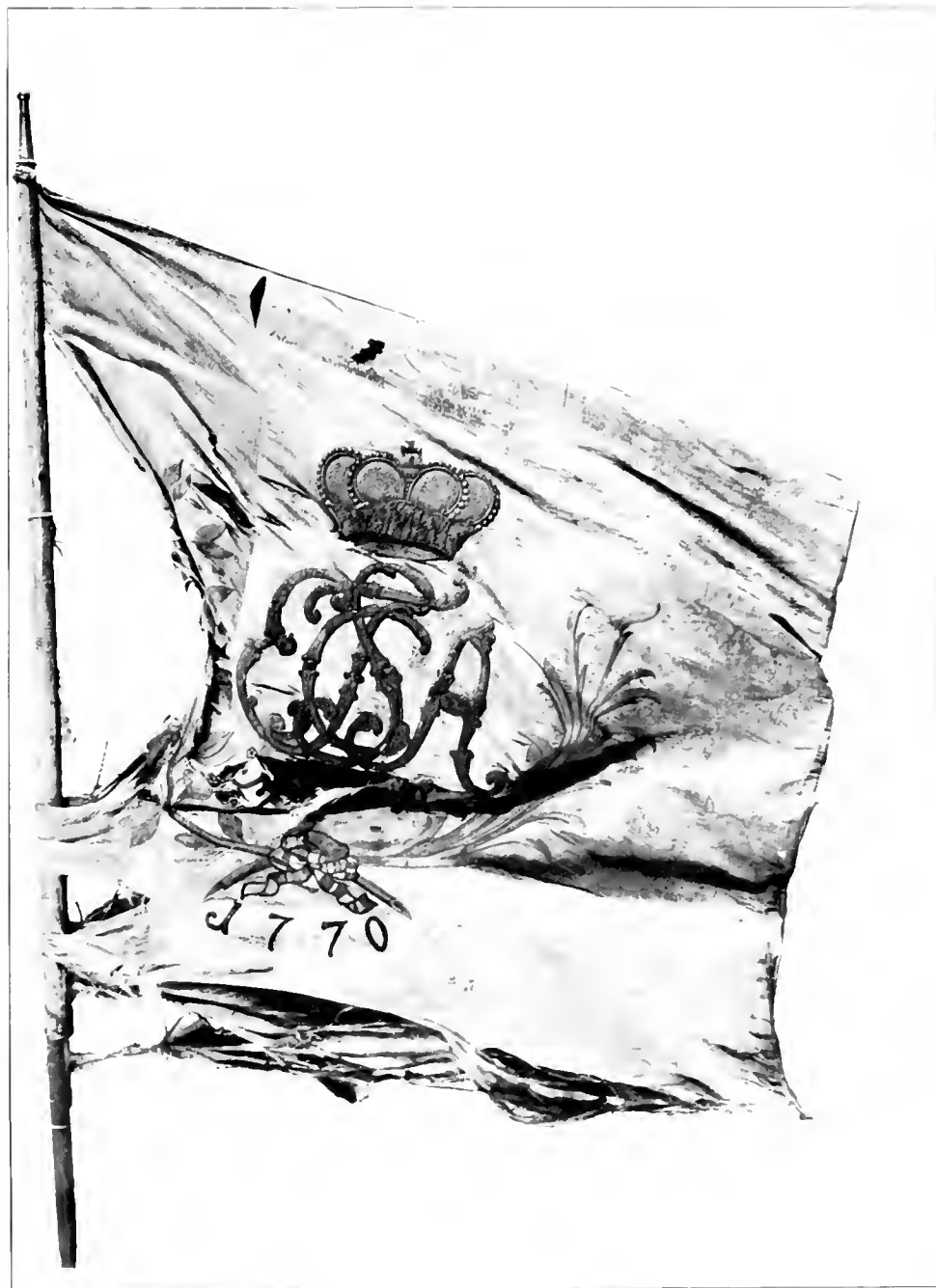
HESSIAN COLOR
UNKNOWN REGIMENT
PHILADELPHIA
PLATE XXX



ANSBACH-BAYREUTH COLOR

WEST POINT

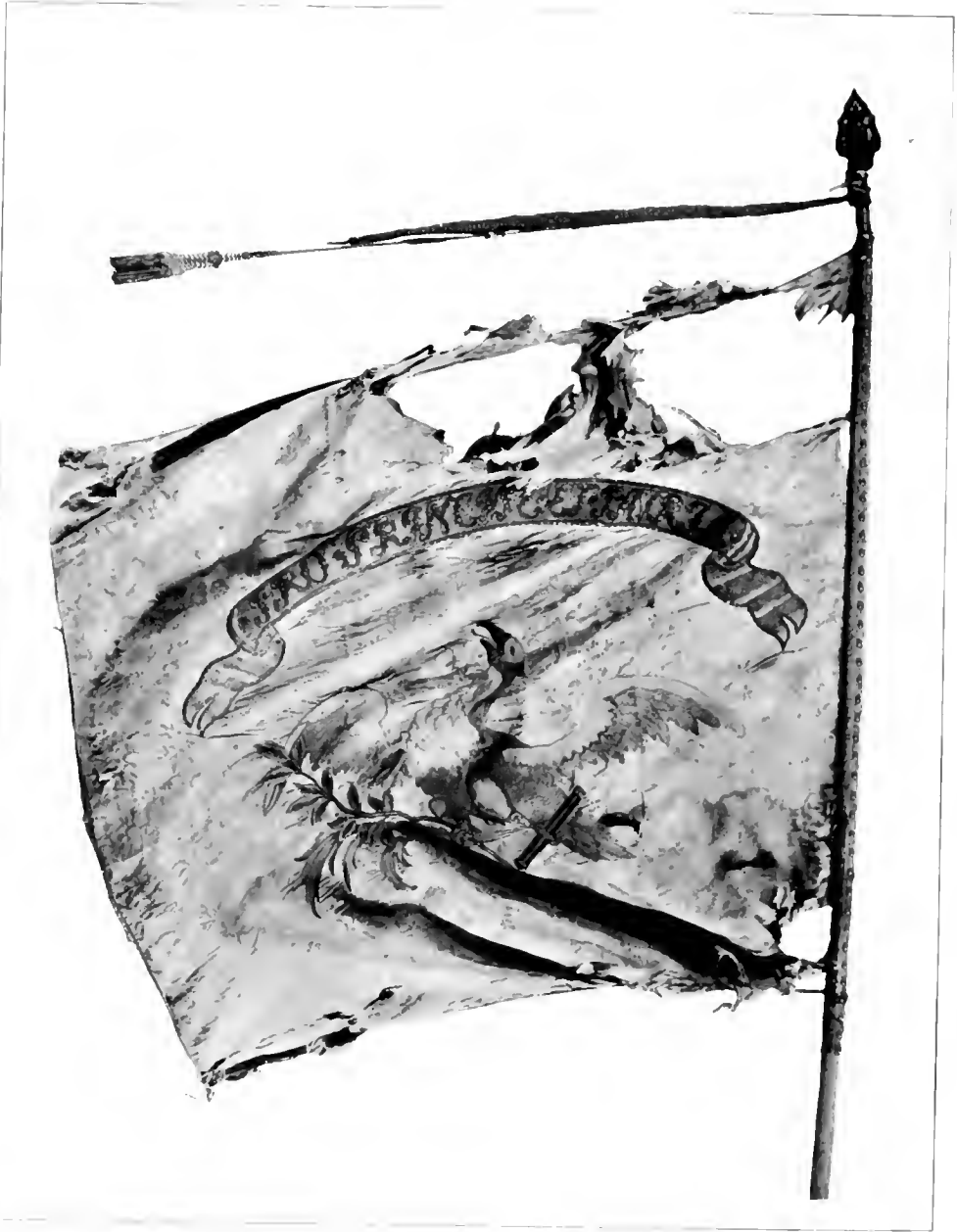
PLATE XXVI



ANSBACH-BAYREUTH COLOR

WEST POINT

PLATE XXVII



ANSBACH-BAYREUTH COLOR

WEST POINT
PLATE XXVIII



ANSBACH-BAYREUTH COLOR

WEST POINT

PLATE XXIX

GERMAN COLORS

tied together by a pink ribbon now quite pale in color, together with a large monogram, a crown and the letters M. Z. B. and the date, all of bullion. The spear-head is shown in detail with the French and English spear-heads and on the same scale. I am informed by Dr. Julius Meyer, Secretary of the Mittel-Franken Historical Society at Ansbach, that the large monogram should be read as follows: S. E. T. C. A., and that the first four letters stand for: SINCERITER ET CONSTANTER (the motto of the order of the Red Eagle, then of Ansbach, now of Prussia). The fifth letter is the initial of ALEXANDER, the reigning Prince, whose complete monogram appears in the spear-head (Plate XXIII) — C. F. C. A., Christian Friedrich Carl Alexander. The only remaining cord and tassel are silver and black.

Two of these flags are clearly shown on Peale's smaller picture of Washington at the Metropolitan Museum (see plate XVII), where the bullion is shown as apparently sewed down with red silk, and the eagle is painted bright red. The plates of the Ansbach-Bayreuth colors at West Point are made from photographs, for which I am again indebted to Brigadier-General Mills and Major Carson.

Döhla, who wrote a remarkable diary of his experiences as an Ansbach-Bayreuth soldier, says eighteen German colors were surrendered at Yorktown. What has become of the other colors, no one seems to know. The disappearance of the heavy embroidered squares of silk of the Ansbach flags is not easy to explain.

BRUNSWICK COLORS

(PLATE XXXII)

By a letter from Director Walter (April 15, 1907) of the Vaterländisches Museum in Brunswick, I am informed that, while the Brunswick flags which were saved by Madame v. Riedesel and

brought back to Brunswick, were deposited in the Arsenal there, they are no longer in existence. Only four of the Brunswick regiments had flags. All were of the same pattern, but of different colors, namely: The *Prince Frederick* regiment had a black flag with a yellow cross; the *Riedesel* regiment's flag was yellow with a blue cross; the *Rbetz* regiment's flag was green with a white cross; and the *Specht* regiment's flag was red with a white cross. The centres of all the flags were red with a white horse (the horse of Brunswick) and the decorations, monograms, crowns, mottoes, etc., were painted in gold and color. The print I have had made of such a flag is from a large water-color sent me by the Ducal Museum in Brunswick. The motto, "NUNQUAM RETRORSUM," is still on one of the colors of the *92d Regiment* (Brunswick). The cypher in the corners, a double C, is for "Carl," the reigning duke.

The *Brunswick Dragoons* brought with them to Canada four small swallow-tail standards, but did not carry them in the field, as the regiment fought on foot. These standards were blue with decorations painted in gold and colors. The two sides were not the same; on one side was the Brunswick horse, in white, standing on green grass; on the other side were the large Brunswick arms emblazoned in their proper colors.



ANSBACH-BAYREUTH COLOR

WEST POINT

PLATE XXX



ANSBACH-BAYREUTH COLOR

(WEST POINT)

PLATE XXXI



BRUNSWICK COLOR
RIEDEL'S REGIMENT
PLATE XXXII

NOTE

I am informed by the Royal Museum Friedericianum at Cassel, from whom I received a very elaborate report on the colors of the German mercenary troops (April 26, 1907), and the Royal Staats-Archiv, at Marburg, that, singular though it may seem, it is a fact that the color of the flags of the Hessian regiments captured at Trenton and Yorktown is not known. The records in Cassel refer only to the flags of the regiments which returned to Germany. Of these (to refer to but two regiments), the *Prinz Karl* Regiment's flags were, one green with wine-colored corners, the others all green; those of the *Ditfurtb* Regiment were, one dark yellow with brick-red corners, the others dark yellow with light blue corners; the centres being blue, with a red and white striped lion. The flags of no two regiments were alike. Water color drawings of these flags exist at Cassel on which, oddly enough, the word "PERICULA" is incorrectly spelled "PERCULA," as on one of the flags on Peale's large picture at the Metropolitan Museum. The spear-heads, as Peale paints them, are quite different from those on the Cassel water-colors. These latter have a crowned monogram in an open-work lance point, whereas Peale has drawn spear-heads of very peculiar design. (See Plate XXII.)

The remnant of a Hessian flag referred to, is from a flag captured at Trenton. (Mrs. Clymer to Historical Society of Pennsylvania.) It probably belonged to *Knyphausen's* Regiment, whose facings were black. The green flags are believed to have been also taken at Trenton. Ellery does not give the color of the corner blazes of the flag he describes. Peale shows one of them white on the green flag on Plate XXII. What the original color of the blazes of the Philadelphia flags was, I am not prepared to say. Pictures of the remnant and of the two Hessian flags have not been published before this, to my knowledge.

The flags of *Rall's* Regiment are said to have been recaptured by the Hessians near Stono Ferry in 1779. (See Eelking, Lowell, and other authorities.)

REGIMENTAL COLORS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

It is not known what the Hesse-Hanau regiment's flags were like and in like manner the pattern of the Anhalt-Zerbst colors is uncertain. Several Anhalt-Zerbst colors of the latter half of the eighteenth century are in existence, but whether they belonged to the regiment sent over here is not known. (Letter from Herr Stadtrat Müller, of Dessau, July 10, 1907.) No Waldeck colors exist in Germany. (Letter from Royal Staats-Archiv, Marburg, March 25, 1907.)

Infantry colors, embroidered as are those of the Ansbach-Bayreuth regiments, were very unusual in Germany in the eighteenth century. I do not know of any embroidered colors of that principality now existing in Germany. Those that I saw in Berlin are all painted.

Major Carson's article in *Bulletin No. 2 of the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy*, referred to above, contains an exceedingly interesting account of the Ansbach-Bayreuth colors at West Point. There is in the Military Museum in Munich a damaged spear-head exactly like those at West Point described as a spear-head of the Ansbach Regiment *Voit v. Salzburg*, "shot off at the battle of Jamestown, July 6, 1786." What action is really meant, I do not know. Undoubtedly one or more of these flags belonged to Washington. They were sent to West Point with the English colors in 1858.

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